



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Better Together in Joy AND Sorrow

There are stretches in pastoral ministry that are truly bittersweet. In the last few weeks as we have seen our church come to life with lots of kids in Sunday School, long-time friends and members returning to worship each week, the UMYF Kickoff with 45 teens happily connecting over candy-smothered ice cream sundaes and hundreds of volunteers mobilizing for the return of the Fall Garage Sale, I have also found myself dealing

with an unusually busy slate of funerals and memorial services.

Over the course of four weeks, I will have officiated at or been part of six such sacred goodbyes. In early September, we celebrated the life of Lois Rutledge, a long-time member who could never get enough Bible study (she regularly attended two Sunday School classes each week!) and who was known for her deep faith and freely-shared convictions.

In addition to the service here at SPUMC, I had the honor of accompanying her family to West Point for the interment of her ashes beside her husband in that hallowed ground.

I led a service at Stallings Funeral Home for Lloyd Eckart, the father of Jo-Ann Eckart, a newer member who is now the piano accompanist for our choir, and I got to speak about how he worked as a Baltimore City policeman for 27 years and loved to fish and play cards with his great-grandson. The church was packed just a few days ago as we bid sad farewell to the always-kind and ever-playful Lou Kamm, whose forty years as a school teacher and principal in our county left a deep imprint on several generations of students (and faculty) and whose fanatical love for Dolly Parton was unsurpassed.

Later today, I will be part of a celebration of life for our next-door neighbor's partner of nine years who died suddenly in his sleep last month. Tomorrow, I have been invited back to my former church in Bethesda to offer the eulogy for Loren Bullock, a 97-year-old beloved saint, who we all referred to as "the voice of God" when he read scripture in worship, not just for the rich timbre of his voice but for the wisdom and thoughtful faith *behind* that voice which would wash over us and soak into our souls. And next Saturday, we will mark the life of Gary Scaggs, husband of SPUMC member Nancy Scaggs and a dentist who maintained his practice in Brooklyn Park for close to 35 years because he felt like that changing community really needed him.

Sometimes the grief is thick and the tears just won't stop. Through these moments of sorrow and loss, we become poignantly aware that we really are **Better Together** and it is how we make it through.

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One of the most important things we do in the church is to simply show up for one another in love when it is most needed. When we rearrange our schedules to come to a memorial service, when we prepare a feast of caloric love for a reception after the service, when we stay in touch in the weeks and months following a death with cards, calls, visits and texts, we demonstrate in compassionate ways that we are better together. As one of your pastors, being part of all of these celebrations of life with you – even when they come in waves -- is a sacred privilege for which I am grateful.

Be God's,

Rev Ron

Together for Joy

This fall we are celebrating all the ways that we are BETTER TOGETHER in worship each Sunday. We are better together when we worship as a community, gather in small groups for study and support and when we serve others in love. We are also better when we share our talents and resources with one another. Stay tuned for **Together for Joy**, our fall stewardship theme, in the coming weeks.



Better Together This Fall

On Sunday, September 11, we had a great morning celebrating that we really are BETTER TOGETHER with scrumptious food and conversation on the front porch, great music in worship and several overflowing classes in Sunday School. This was all topped off with our youth eating ice cream and re-connecting that evening. Lots of new and returning smiling faces and so much joy all around! Hope to see you **this** Sunday at 8am, 9:15am or 10:45am as our series continues. We'll be even BETTER TOGETHER if you are here with us!



Winter Relief

Due to Covid we have not been able to offer Winter Relief as a mission in our church since February 2020. In six short weeks our church will again have the privilege of hosting Winter Relief. We have a full leadership team excited and ready to go and Winter Relief will be held the week of **November 7 – 14**. Winter Relief is a mission where our church houses anywhere from 25 - 45 un-housed men and women overnight for an entire week. We offer shelter, meals, showers, laundry, warm fellowship and most importantly the love of God to these men and women. There are many ways you can be involved such as serving as a host volunteer (working directly with the guests), helping with meals, providing transportation, doing laundry, helping with some of the activities and so much more. It is a great way to serve as part of a significant mission without leaving town. You will again be able to sign up online as well as in Fellowship Hall. The link for the online signup can be found by going to severnaparkumc.org/winter-relief

Starting October 9, Carole Parker will also be available on Sundays in Fellowship Hall between the 8:00 am and 9:15 am services, to help people sign up. It takes about 300 volunteers and around 1300 volunteer hours to run this mission. Please think about serving during this very important week. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Heim at 410-987-4924 or at cvheim@aol.com



On the Run with SPAN

The 2022 Stride for SPAN TURKEY TROT will be held on **Saturday, November 5th**, at Kinder Farm Park. The 5K Race & 1Mile Fun Walk is a great way to enjoy a crisp fall Saturday morning and help raise funds to support our neighbors in need. Registration is open until November 2nd, but registering by October 10th qualifies participants for a reduced entrance fee. Racers, walkers and groups are welcome!

Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall on the SPAN space of the bulletin board. You may also [register online](#) at www.Active.com.

Contact spanhelps@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Paint 'N Pray for Ukraine

The United Women of Faith are sponsoring a Paint 'N Pray for Ukraine on **Oct 23 at 12:00Noon** in Fellowship Hall. A "Before and After" potluck lunch of appetizers and desserts will be shared. It will be \$15 per person, and sign-up details will follow soon.

Music Ministry News

Any 8 o'clocker worshipers who are interested in resuming an **Early Risers choir** may email lyoung@severnaparkumc.org or talk to her at the end of the early service. Thank you! Laura Young

Calling all K-5 parents and kids! **SparkSong** takes place during the 9:15 gathering time of Sunday School. We love singing with your kids! Questions? See or email Laura Young, lyoung@severnaparkumc.org

Youth News

UMYF continues to meet weekly!

October 2 @ 7pm
Election of Officers

October 9 @ 7pm
"Five Mistakes Teens Make"

October 16 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Rise Against Hunger Meal packing

October 23 @ 7pm
Program night

October 30 @ 7pm
Halloween Bonfire at the Hardens
Watch for news about our new Bible Study!

SUPER SIXTH

October 9 @ 5:00 pm
BINGO

October 23 @ 5:00 pm
Group building games

November 6 @ 5:00 pm
"Everybody's Birthday"





Fall Sunday School

Fall Sunday School continues each week at 9:15am. Children and their parents should check-in back by Room 208 (in the back of the building). Pre-school children begin in Room 114 and Elementary in 208. We are currently in need of a few more volunteers for middle and high school youth. Please let Erica know how you'd be willing to serve this school year. Nursery Care is available weekly at 9:15am for children 2 & younger, and at 10:45am for kids 5 and younger.
ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



First Bibles for 3rd Graders

It is our tradition to gift Bibles to our 3rd graders and those children in 4th & 5th grade who have yet to receive a Bible. All children who receive a Bible need to attend a one hour class on either **Thursday, Oct 13 7:00 on Zoom or Sunday, Oct 16 10:45** at Church with a guardian. Please register online prior to October 9th (or by emailing Erica). Bibles will be given out on **Sunday, October 23rd during the 9:15 service.**



It's A Girl!

We are thrilled to announce the birth of **Elizabeth (Libby) Kathleen Cockey**, born on September 21 to our Worship Leader **Meg Moore** and her husband, **Brian Cockey**. Meg and the baby are doing great



and big brother David could not be prouder of this new addition to the family. During Meg's maternity leave, we are grateful to have **Ty Young** filling in as our interim Worship Leader at the 9:15am service.



Hollering for Change

We were blessed to have Rev. Dr. Tori Butler, pastor of Asbury Town Neck UMC, as a guest speaker here at SPUMC on Tuesday, September 27. Addressing a packed Parlor, Rev. Butler shared a bit of her own journey in ministry as a young African American female preacher and the challenges she has faced due to gender, youthfulness and racism. Drawing on scriptures from Nehemiah 1 (the experience of the exiles returning to Jerusalem) and the Psalms of Lament along with her personal experience, she talked about developing her own spiritual resiliency. "The Holler,"

she said, "is what happens when Black clergywomen name their heartbreak and claim their voice as they take on injustice." Dr. Butler led the group in a time of reflection about what breaks our hearts and what we might be willing to "holler" for as we seek to build bridges of understanding and authentic relationship across all kinds of divides. We look forward to more opportunities to partner and engage in meaningful conversation, worship and service with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Asbury Town Neck UMC in the near future.

The program was hosted by our *Faith & Race* group which meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Parlor. Please join us as we continue to learn, grow and find our "hollering" voices on our journey toward the Beloved Community together.



Cluster Church Conference

SPUMC will be part of a Cluster Church Conference at Community UMC of Pasadena on **Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7:00 – 8:15pm**. This will be an exciting evening filled with worship, the business of holy conferencing, a time to connect with one another, and refreshments. We will meet in the sanctuary, share some of the ways that God is moving through our respective ministries and then break into individual church meetings for voting on leadership and pastoral compensation reports. *Our leaders will be attending to represent our congregation but the Church Conference is open to any SPUMC member or friend who wants to attend.*

Bishop Holds Town Hall

Bishop Latrelle Easterling hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, September 28 to talk about some of the changes happening in the UMC. Along with the Conference Treasurer, Trustee Chairs and program officers of the Baltimore-Washington and Pen-Del Conferences, the webinar centered on outlining essential UMC beliefs, correcting misinformation that has been circulating on social media, an explanation of the UMC Trust Clause and describing the process that a congregation must follow to disaffiliate

from the UMC. It was extremely well done with current information and a spirit of love and hoped-for unity. We'll have the link to the webinar up on our Top 5 page as soon as it is available if you want to stay informed. severnaparkumc.org/Top5





Adults Loving Life

Our next luncheon will be on **Wednesday, October 26th at 12:00** in Fellowship Hall. Our own Shawn Reese will join us for "Hymns from a Hat." Many of us have had the pleasure of hearing Shawn play during worship services, and now we have the opportunity to have his skills showcased as a guest pianist just for ALL. Following lunch, we'll enjoy a wonderful time of hymns chosen from the participant's requests. Come and enjoy the luncheon, the fellowship, and the chance to reconnect with some of your favorite hymns. Make reservations for the luncheon by calling Kathie Kamm at 410-647-5914 (**deadline is October 23rd**).

On **Wednesday, December 7th**, join ALL for a bus trip to American Music Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for their 2022 Christmas Show: "Home for the Holidays." The show will feature the secular and sacred holiday songs you know and love, with all-live performances by a sensational cast of singers and dancers, as well as the orchestra. After the show, enjoy a delicious smorgasbord lunch (and their gift shop) at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Cost is \$115 per person and includes transportation, buffet lunch, reserved seats for the show, and all taxes and tips. Departure time is 7:45AM (from Church parking lot), with an approximate return time of 5:45PM. Make reservations and arrange for payment (deadline is November 1st) for this trip by calling Kathie Kamm at 410-647-5914.

Below are shortened versions of the ALL announcements for the September 30 enews, October enews and Sunday bulletins, and October slideshows and announcements.



Flood Relief Mission Trip

OUR MINI-MISSION TRIP to Waverly, TN for new home building now has a few openings. A team from SPUMC will be part of the joint recovery effort by ASP & UMCOR to assist this community which was ravaged by flooding that displaced many poor and elderly residents. The dates are **November 2-6**. If you've ever wanted to be part of a VIM or ASP work team but couldn't go in the summer or commit a full week, this might be for you. Please contact Chip Linehan (boxslsman@aol.com) or Rev. Lee Ferrell (lferrell@severnaparkumc.org) for more information.



SPAN Update

Did you know that SPAN provides significant help to individuals and families in crisis? Churches, organizations, businesses, schools and individuals come together, through SPAN, to help locals in crisis whether caused by an economic downturn, medical emergency or other crises such as the pandemic we've just experienced.

SPAN's data shows that the need for emergency financial assistance has increased dramatically in recent months. The average monthly amount of **emergency financial help** SPAN provided **increased almost 250%** between the first and second half of FY22. The average **number of families** SPAN assisted with financial aid **doubled** in the second half of FY22.

At SPUMC, our focus has been on donating food to SPAN to help supply its food pantry, and our congregation has really stepped up to the plate by filling the Reverse Advent Bags in December.

In addition, SPAN can really use our help financially to assist people in crisis: to avoid eviction, to keep their utilities on, and sometimes to pay for medical help. This year, the November communion offering will be directed to SPAN to Serve People Across Neighborhoods. Please help as you are able.



Rise Against Hunger



SPUMC is sponsoring a “Rise Against Hunger” 20,000 meal packing event on **Sunday, October 16 from 4:00-6:00pm** with a set-up shift at 2:30pm. This is a fun, intergenerational event for all ages! Sign up at the link below to reserve your spot(s) and sign the waiver(s). Middle and High School youth will have their own shift from 6:30-8:30pm following the All-Church shift and sign up and waivers will be handled by Rev. Lee. Please contact Becky Clapp at becky.clapp23@gmail.com or 301-346-4098 if you have questions. <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/SevernaPark2022>

Severna Park United Methodist Church

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