



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Better Together

Back in 1967, the Youngbloods released a song that would become their only Billboard Top 40 hit. By the time that “Get Together” peaked at #5 on the charts in 1969 with a second release, it had become part of the American folk/rock canon of that era and people still recognize and sing it today.

In many respects, its message is as current now as it was back then during this period of intense societal

upheaval that included Vietnam War protests, a national reckoning with racial inequalities, the women’s rights movement and a rapidly changing social order. To that world and to ours, these words still ring true:

If you hear the song I sing

*You will understand,
(listen!)*

*You hold the key to love
and fear*

All in your trembling hand

(continued on page 2)

Just one key unlocks them both
 It's there at your command
 Come on, people now
 Smile on your brother
 Everybody get together
 Try to love one another right now

We chose the theme for our fall worship series – **Better Together** – because both as a church community and polarized society, there is a desperate need to “get together,” “smile on your brother (and sister)” and unlock love and healing with the “key to love and fear all in our trembling hands.”

On a very basic level as a church, we find ourselves continuing to recover from the multi-year effects of Covid-19 that have altered not just our health but our personal patterns and rhythms. We are rebuilding every area of our ministry from the ground up. Some of us have gotten very comfortable worshipping online at our convenience or we've simply fallen out of the habit of coming to church. I can't tell you how many conversations I've had this summer with SPUMC folks who begin with, “You know, we really need to get back to church...” but who haven't returned yet regularly or at all for many different reasons.

The reality is that we are a better and stronger community when we are with one another face to face in our Sanctuary for worship or in a small group Bible study or serving side by side in missional outreach. When more of us come together - when we simply show up - it adds life and energy for everyone. We don't do it just for ourselves, either; we do it for one another and in the process, we become **Better Together**.

In a deeper and broader sense, we are **Better Together** as we adopt an attitude and posture of openness toward one another. When we seek to stay in relationship across our divides, when we refuse to demonize or write off those who are different from us, when we recognize that we hold the one key that “unlocks them both,” we discover that we no longer have to fear but can genuinely “try to love one another right now.”

We invite you to join us this fall for in-person worship on **Sundays at 8am, 9:15am or 10:45am** (note the time changes) as we learn firsthand that we are indeed, **Better Together**. Of course, we will continue to provide our **online worship** on Sundays via Facebook & YouTube at **10:45am** but we'd much rather see you in person if you can make it here. If you've been away for a while or just “out of the habit” of being in church on Sunday mornings, know you are loved, missed, needed and welcome here. Your presence and participation really do make us **Better Together!**

Rex Ron

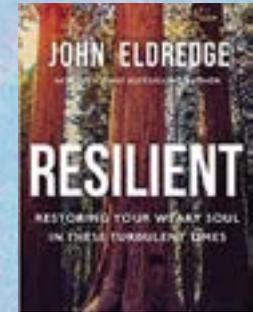


Better Together Thru Learning

All books will be available at the Welcome Desk

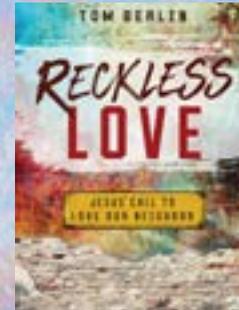
“Resilient” by John Eldredge
 Tuesdays, 7pm with Rev. Lee
 Beginning September 13

Here is your guide for emerging from global trauma with your faith and soul stronger than ever. Turning to Jesus, you can find help reviving your exhausted heart and mind.
lferrell@severnaparkumc.org



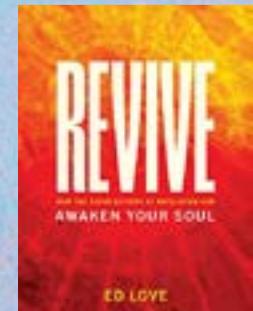
“Reckless Love” by Tom Berlin
 Wednesdays, 7pm with Rev. Ron
 Beginning September 14

This 6-week study takes an honest look at Jesus' call to love our neighbors which can lead to a deeper relationship with God. We'll focus on stories & teachings from all the gospels. rfoster@severnaparkumc.org



“Revive” by Ed Love
 Wednesdays, 7 pm with Chip linehan
 Beginning September 14

“Revive: How the Seven Letters of Revelation Can Awaken Your Soul” by Ed Love unpacks the messages from Jesus to the seven churches in Revelation to see what they say to us today. For all seeking passion they once had for Jesus. boxsman@aol.com



Studies in Genesis
 Tuesdays, 7:30 pm with Rev. Byron
 Beginning October 25 via Zoom

A study of the first book of the Bible including the Creation stories, the fall and aftermath, the Covenant with Abraham, and stories of the patriarchs (Isaac, Jacob & Joseph). bbrought@severnaparkumc.org



VIM & The Garage Sale

Many of you know or have become more aware of Volunteers in Mission as we organize our **October 1st Garage Sale**. VIM is an organization within the church that is open for everyone to participate. We plan to resume monthly meetings so watch for announcements in October. While we might be known for our international trips like to Costa Rica for church building, or Puerto Rico or nationally Mississippi/Alabama for disaster relief, we do trips to UMCOR to support their mission outreach, work days at West River, and we also rehabbed the kitchen at SPAN, too. There are many opportunities for local or more distant missions. If you have an idea join us and bring it to our October meeting. Remember VIM is open to everyone.



The reason the Garage Sale is so important is we generate all of our funding from these sales. The United Women of Faith also get all their mission funding from the sale. The UWF actually started the sale! While we enjoy our mission outreach that we are enabled to do, the Garage Sale is so much more important to our community. We are a blessed community and receive a lot of beautiful donations. Our shoppers come to be able to inexpensively purchase clothing and shoes, household goods, furniture, toys, baby gear, books, sports equipment, and holiday items. After the sale what remains goes to organizations like Orphan Grain Train, Hope for All, Partners in Care, and AMVETS who are very appreciative of our donations. So besides the mission work we do, we hope you can see how far the Garage Sale goes in our community and beyond.

Here comes the recruiting pitch. Like everyone we are trying to revive after the Covid pandemic. While we have made significant progress **we still need more volunteers** especially for the October 1st sale date. Remember you can sign up in Fellowship Hall or connect on the SPUMC homepage link. Please prayerfully consider joining us to help out. While it can be tiring, it is also a great time of fellowship while working on this mission together.

Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is back! First, we want to thank all of our VBS families for the generous donations of food for our program. We received a variety of items that will get us started for the school year.

We still need additional items for our first packing. We currently need any of the following items: 16 oz. jars of peanut butter, shelf life white or flavored milk, Chef Boyardee microwave cups or bowls, boxes of saltines or Ritz crackers with individually wrapped sleeves, raisins, pudding cups, cereal cups or single serve boxes, and tuna or chicken pouches.

If you would like to join us, our first packing is on **Monday, September 12 at 4:30 pm** in Room 208. If you have any questions about Backpack Buddies, please feel free to contact Norma at nlgraber@gmail.com or Sandy at mamacuzz@gmail.com.

Rise Against Hunger

COMING SOON!

SPUMC is sponsoring a "Rise Against Hunger" 20,000 meal packing event on **Sunday, October 16th!** Details to follow.....**SAVE THE DATE!**



Winter Relief

After two years of not being able to offer Winter Relief as a mission in our church we are back on target for this November.



We have a full leadership team ready to go and Winter Relief will be held the week of **November 7 - 14**. For those of you new to the church who do not know what Winter Relief is, it is a mission where we house anywhere from 25 - 45 homeless men and women at our church overnight for a week. We provide them with a bed at night, dinner, breakfast, a bag lunch to take for the day, laundry, haircuts, and many other services. It is a great way to serve on a mission without leaving town. We encourage you to sign up for this mission. Online sign ups



will be available starting on **Monday, October 3**. If you need further information please contact Carolyn Heim at cvheim@aol.com.

Book and Toy Ministry

The *Book and Toy Ministry* is now in its 10th year. Originally known as simply the *Book Ministry*, it was started as part of Heaven's Kitchen by Trent Muzik. He was in middle school and with the support of his parents, collected reading materials and displayed them for guests of Heaven's Kitchen to take with them. This ministry was very much appreciated by children and adults.

As Trent grew older, he became a member of a traveling sports team which didn't allow him to continue this Ministry. He asked if

someone would like to lead this ministry, and I felt called to volunteer. Now, after seven years, it is now the *Book and Toy Ministry*. I recalled when I was teaching, the students loved to hold a stuffed animal or toy that was related to the story I was reading to them. I decided to collect children's books and match a stuffed animal or toy with each one. I take 20-25 matched children's books to Heaven's Kitchen whenever I can go. I, also, collected books for pre-teens, teens, and adults. Many adults will choose books not only for themselves, but as a gift for a special child. When a child comes to the table to choose a book, I love how they go about making a choice and their smile is priceless.



At Christmas, the children's books and toys are wrapped so the adults can give a wrapped gift to a special child in their life. They are so grateful for this opportunity.

Last September, we collected almost 100 books and toys. Through this month, a 2nd Book and Toy drive is being held. Please bring your donations to Fellowship Hall and place them on the counter. My only requests are that each stuffed animal, toy, and book is in 'like new' condition and can fit into a two-gallon plastic bag. Books are accepted for all ages.

Thank you for supporting the Book and Toy Ministry and putting smiles on so many faces.

Blessings to All,

Martha Hollidge

Bringing the Bible to Life:

SPUMC Members make the Bible more accessible to many! SPUMC continues to support the ministry of members Bruce and Heather Beal. After serving for many years in Mexico, the Beals have relocated to Dallas. Currently, Heather serves as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Dallas International University. The mission of Dallas International University, as an institution of higher education, is to provide education and research opportunities leading to degrees in applied linguistics, culture studies, and development of languages.

The degrees have concentrations in Bible Translation, Descriptive Linguistics and World Arts. She also teaches a class in Oral Translation which prepares students to translate the Bible in a way which communicates to communities who do not read. In addition, she continues to serve as a linguistic consultant for the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Mexico. She also participates in an oral translation of the Bible into English. Bruce serves as the director of the International Linguistics Center Summer Camp. In addition, he continues to homeschool their children, Joshua and Michaela, who are in the process of finishing high school.

We are grateful for the Beals and for the important work they do to ensure everyone is able to access the Bible and to learn about God's loving grace.



A Big VBS Thank-You!



Dear Erica and SPUMC,
On behalf of St. John United, I just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to donating your leftover Vacation Bible School supplies to us! Your decorations truly helped us make our church into a Food Truck Party for our students. We are so thankful for you helping us to create a fun, engaging space to share the love of Christ with our small but vibrant community. You are truly a blessing to us and we pray that in blessing us, your blessings will be returned tenfold!



Thank you again for supporting us as we all work together to create new disciples in the children of our communities.

~Jen McClurg on behalf of the St. John United VBS Team in Columbia, MD

Serving at First Fruits Farm

This summer 41 people of all ages from SPUMC served alongside volunteers from other churches, scouts, and non-profits to pick produce at First Fruits Farm. In June we helped pick 2,000 lbs. of tomatoes and in August we helped gather 24,000 lbs. of potatoes. All the produce goes to food pantries and feeding ministries across the mid-Atlantic. We will definitely be heading back so stay tuned for our next trip. *"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat... whatever you did for one of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me."*
- Matthew 25:35, 40



New Banners in the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary got a fresh look with a new set of banners! Do they look familiar? They used to be "The Creation" altar pieces. Thanks to *Nancy Densmore* and *Carol Rice*, they have re-purposed these beautiful altar pieces to become a panorama banner for the choir loft. Now you can see all four sides of creation on one wall. Check out this stunning piece of art during the worship services. Thank you, Carol and Nancy!

Better Together Fall Sunday School

This fall Sunday School kicks off on **September 11th!** Throughout the fall we will be focusing on the spiritual habit of spending time with others while studying the Psalms and Prophets. Sunday School will be weekly at 9:15. This year as families arrive and check in, babies and toddlers will proceed to the nursery, preschool children will proceed directly to their classroom, room 114. Elementary children will participate in play stations during arrival and then have music time with our new music director, Laura Young, from 9:15-9:30 before moving to their Sunday School rooms, rooms 116 & 117. There is nursery care weekly at 9:15 for children 2 years and younger and at 10:45 for children 5 and younger. For monthly updates regarding our curriculum check our SPark Family website. severnaparkumc.org/spark

Throughout the fall, middle and high school youth will also focus on the spiritual habit of spending time with others and friendship while studying Hebrews and more. When youth arrive they can go right to their classrooms, rooms 302 & 303.

Sunday School is led by a team of volunteers, mostly parents, but also teachers, grandparents, and members that want to share their love of Jesus with our kids. This year we have teaching opportunities especially in our preschool class and high school class. We are currently in need of one volunteer for preschool kids and 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.

Kids are a vital part of our mission work at SPUMC. Throughout the year, preschool-high school youth help pack bags for our Backpack Buddies ministry.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On **Sunday, August 28**, we had a large crowd on hand to witness the blessing of students and teachers as they headed back to school. We had everyone from 3-year olds to high school seniors, pre-school teachers to college faculty come forward to receive a blessing and small reminders of the church's ongoing support for them in the form of stickers, tags and other goodies to place in and on their backpacks.



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.

Update Your Breeze Profile

Fall is a great time to update your family's Breeze profile. Breeze is our database and check-in system. Click on the Breeze icon to get started. www.severnaparkumc.org

Music Ministry News

Kickoff Potluck: The Music Ministry invites you to be here on **Thursday, September 8 at 6pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All who participate or might like to participate are invited! Please sign up to join us at tinyurl.com/SPMusicPotluck

Choir will resume weekly rehearsals at 7pm on **September 8**, and **Handbell** rehearsals will resume on **September 15** starting at 6pm. For more information about both of these groups, please contact Laura Young: lyoung@severnaparkumc.org

The Worship Team gathers for practice every **Wednesday at 7pm**. Please contact Meg Moore to see if this is for you. mmoore@severnaparkumc.org



September 2022

Welcome to Our New Members

We welcome our newest members, **Kate & Evan Hopkins, Lisa & Mark Zimmerman** and **Kelly Martin** who joined our congregation on **August 21**.



Kelly Martin The Zimmerman Family



The Hopkins Family

Connections Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church or simply want to know more about our ministries and where you fit in, you are invited to come to a **CONNECTIONS CLASS** on **Sunday, October 2 at 10:15am** in the Parlor. We'll have a chance to get to know you better, too, which is just as important. **RSVP to Kris or just show up!** kzyla@severnaparkumc.org or 410-987-4700 (Office)

Baptism Class

If you want to have a child baptized at SPUMC in the coming months, you are asked to attend a one-time class with one of our pastors. The next class is **Sunday, October 9, 10:15am** in the Parlor. **RSVP to Beth.** bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Better Together

SPAN Turkey Trot 5K

SPAN has one primary fundraiser for the year - our 5K Turkey Trot! After a two year hiatus it is returning! Join us for this fun family event at Kinder Farm Park.



We invite you to help us in planning the event! Time commitments of all sizes available.

Sponsorship opportunities are also still available. Contact us if interested: spanhelps@yahoo.com

A SPAN Cabaret

A Cabaret Performance will benefit SPAN created and performed by Severna Park Native, Laurette Hankins-O'Connell and Pianist/Duet Singer Anita O'Connor. With an exuberant and occasionally irreverent salute to a wide array of Broadway musicals of the 20th century, this upbeat "backstage tour" includes showtunes from more than six decades of Broadway's best.



Join us on Saturday, September 10, 2022, 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30) at the Severna Park Community Center Boone Station Hall, for a one hour show with an intermission. Tickets are \$25, with 100% of the net proceeds go to support SPAN. Concessions will be available for cash-only purchase. Silent auction items will be available by check or PayPal. Space is limited. Tickets

must be purchased by mailing a check to SPAN, 400 Benfield Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146 or via PayPal at spanhelps@yahoo.com. In the message section, state that your payment is for the show, and indicate how many seats you want. If you want to find out more, please email spanhelps@yahoo.com.

Adults Loving Life Events

Our next luncheon will be on **Wednesday, September 21 at 12:00** in Fellowship Hall (note that this is a week earlier than our usual meeting time). Pastor Byron will join us and speak about the formation of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments: when books were written; how some writings were included in the Bible and some left out, and why; and to look at the difference between Protestant and Catholic Bibles. Make reservations for the luncheon by calling Lou and Kathie Kamm at 410-647-5914 (deadline is September 18th).

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 Lou and Kathie Kamm at 410-647-5914.

Youth News

Both middle high (grades 6-8) and senior high (grades 9-12) Sunday School will begin again during our 9:15am service, starting on **September 11**. Come welcome some returning teachers and some new teachers!!

UMYF will celebrate its fall kick-off on **Sunday, September 11 from 7:00-8:30 pm**, with an all-you-can-eat ice cream sundae bar! If you've been away for a while, come back! If you have never tried it, you have missed something special that you cannot get just anywhere. Hope we see you there!

Super Sixth Starts Soon! This unique preparatory group for 6th graders and their friends will begin **Sunday, September 25, 5:00-6:30pm**. We begin with games, introductions, and a pizza dinner! Watch the mail for your "formal" invitation.

Hollering for Change

We are excited to welcome Rev. Tori Butler as our guest speaker on **Tuesday, September 27 at 7pm** in the Parlor. Rev. Butler is the dynamic pastor at Asbury Town Neck UMC in Severna Park and her presentation is titled "Hollering for Change." There will be lots of time for Q & A with Rev. Butler. The evening is sponsored by our Faith & Race Group and open to anyone.



Pilgrimage Testimony

Many thanks to **Jan Shipley, Martha Hollidge and Paula McDermott** for sharing their moving and unique testimonies about their pilgrimage to Oberammergau and Israel with our SPUMC group earlier this summer. Jan talked about how meaningful it was to read for the group the story of Jesus healing a man by the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem and how it connected to the healing and provision she had found in her own life. Martha related experiencing every emotion possible during the Passion Play and having her own "holy ground moment" of renewing her baptism in the Jordan River. Finally, Paula recounted how she wasn't even sure she wanted to pray at the Wailing Wall, but when she placed her hand and offered her heart to God there, she felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in a profound way. What a sacred journey!



New Worship Times | Fall Garage Sale

++ New Schedule ++
8am, 9:15am & 10:45am
Starting September 11
Online Worship @ 10:45am
via Facebook & YouTube
Sunday School @ 9:15am
Nursery Care All Morning

Be part of this church-wide effort on
Saturday, October 1, 8:30am-1pm.
Sign up to help on the day of the sale
or the prep days leading up as we
receive, sort, pack, and price goods.
We are in need of many volunteers,
so don't hesitate to lend a hand!
severnaparkumc.org/sale

Severna Park United Methodist Church

731 Benfield Rd. Severna Park, MD 21146

410.987.4700 | severnaparkumc.org