



CELEBRATE LIFE!
Caring * Connecting * Supporting

WORLD AIDS DAY 2023

Rev. Terri Rae Chattin, on behalf of the Quality of Life Retreats, participated in a service to “Remember and Commit” at Salem UMC on December 2, 2023. The message of World AIDS Day is to educate the wider public to be tested and know their prevention options and help end the stigma.



World AIDS Day is observed on December 1st each year. It is a day of solidarity for people around the world who are affected by HIV. This is a day for voices to unite by sharing experiences, remembering those lost, and standing together in the fight against AIDS. While great strides have been made over the four decades since the first known reported cases of AIDS, this disease remains a public health challenge.

DECEMBER 4-7, 2023 RETREAT

“Simple Gifts: Faith, Family, Friends” was the theme of our annual December retreat. Special presentations were made by Merck Pharmaceutical, Rev. Stanley Bolds, and Alfredo Santiago, one of our Quality of Life Retreats Board members. The Rev. Dr. Kay Albury joined us one morning to offer a message of hope and share communion. Other activities included arts and crafts, bingo, festive dinner, ice cream social, talent show, women and men support groups, and a healing service.



PARTICIPANTS & STAFF

SPECIAL GIFTS

The *St. Paul's/Gaither Parish of Sykesville, Maryland*, gifted our December retreat with a prayer shawl for each participant. One participant was so touched that she wore her prayer shawl throughout the entire retreat. The parish youth fellowship also supplied each retreatant with a toiletry bag.



For several years now, *Ebenezer United Methodist*, has given out Christmas bags at the December retreat. This year the bags had scarfs, hats, and gloves. Ebenezer also offered their church bus at a reduced price for transportation to and from the retreat.

It is through monetary gifts and in-kind gifts such as these that keep our retreat ministry sustained. Thank you, Ebenezer and St. Paul's/Gaither!

Upcoming 2024 Events

- April 20: QLR Board Meeting (ZOOM)\
- May 13-16: Women's Retreat, Washington Retreat House
- May 29-31: BWC Annual Conference, Hilton Hotel (Baltimore)
- June 22: Frederick Pride (10 AM-6 PM)
- July 20: Mission U
- July 27: QLR Board Meeting (In person, LLUMC)
- September 12-15: Fall Retreat, Manidokin Retreat Center

- November 16: QLR Board Meeting (ZOOM)
- December 9-12: Winter Retreat, Washington Retreat House
- December 1: World's Aid Day

Statement of Faith and Purpose

- In affirmation of the love of God, this program is offered to all HIV-infected persons, regardless of religious faith, nationality, race, gender or sexual identification.
- The QLR Board views the church as a healing instrument, which can extend a caring, supportive ministry of prayer, education, advocacy and direct service. The goal of our effort is to uphold and enhance the quality of individual life by nurturing hope, unconditional love, independence and self-determination.

SPANISH SPEAKING RETREAT

In September we held our second Latinx retreat at Emmanuel United Methodist. Our theme was "Is God/Angels with Me." We were blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, General Secretary of the Commission of Religion and Race, as our keynote speaker. His presentation focused on Psalm 139. Terry Conroy, a yoga instructor, also led us in chair yoga. Another Latinx is being planned for this year.



DONATIONS - All contributions are welcome and needed. Checks should be payable to: Baltimore/Washington Conference Treasurer and earmarked "Quality of Life Retreats" and sent to: Terri Rae Chattin, 37 Cedar Hill Road, Randallstown, MD 21133-1510