

The Visitor

February 2022



Our Mission/Vision is to learn and grow in Jesus Christ to serve others and transform lives here, across the street and around the world.

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Emergency Winter Shelter

The Emergency Winter Shelter began operating in January and will run through March and into early April. This year half the hotel rooms will be reserved for families with children. Churches are asked to help provide meals and other things. So far, all the needs for meals have been met.

Online Worship Service

In consultation with our Re-Uniting Safely Task Force, we are temporarily suspending in-person worship, Sunday School and meetings in our buildings. With our local hospitals using Crisis Standards of Care, the high transmission rate and some vaccine resistance of the Omicron variant, we need to take a break in order to prevent adding to the spread of Covid and for safety.

This temporary policy does not mean leaders cannot access needed items in the building in order to do ministry virtually or remotely.

Worship will be online via Facebook Live at 11 a.m. Sundays and posted to YouTube later that day.

The Church Office is closed to the public. The mail slot may be used for small deliveries and the red cupboard for larger items. It is checked regularly. If you need to visit the office, please call ahead and wear a mask.

Sunday School

- Pre-K through grade 5 classes will have materials mailed to them.
- Middle school meets by Zoom at 10 a.m.
- Senior high/young adults will be contacted by Mr. Phil with instructions about how to meet safely.
- The adult class meets at 9:45 by Zoom.

Worship Live Streamed Sundays at 11 a.m.



A Winter Sermon Series: Hearing with our Heart

When the weather is coldest, and the nights seem longest what do we hear God say? Sometimes in the dark, hearing is our best navigational tool. God speaks to us. How will we respond? We explore hearing God through stories in the Gospel of Luke and through the stories of Hebrew prophets who heard God's call and responded.

February 6

Celebration of the Wesleyan Love Feast

Please have something at hand to eat and drink

Isaiah 6: 1-8, Luke 5: 1-11

“Hearing God's Voice”

Sometimes through our failure and brokenness God speaks to us

February 13

Cub Scout Sunday

We celebrate the ministry of our Pack.

Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Luke 6: 17-26

“The Voice that Heals”

God's voice heals us.

February 20

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jennifer

February 27

Scout Sunday

We celebrate the ministry of our Troop.

Transfiguration Sunday

We celebrate the transfiguration of Jesus before we begin the journey of Lent toward the Cross in Jerusalem.

Luke 9: 27-43a

“From the Sublime to the Tragic”

The Christ left heaven to come to earth. Jesus leaves the Mount of Transfiguration to enter the Valley of the Shadow, the Valley of human life, illness and pain. He leaves the Transfiguration to begin the journey to the Cross. So, we are called to live out the gospel in the world.

March 2

Ash Wednesday

Watch for updated information on how we will celebrate this

To make a right beginning of Lent we receive the mark of ashes as a sign of our mortality, repentance and willingness to take up our cross to follow Jesus.

BWC College Scholarships

The annual BWC College Scholarship application period is now open. Students who are currently enrolled in college or who are seniors in high school are encouraged to apply. There are several different scholarships sponsored by the BWC. Find out more by going to our Conference's website (www.bwcumc.org), click on “Administration” at the top toolbar, click on “Local Church Resources” and then on “Scholarships.” Apply online by **March 24**.

Continued Support

Your continued support of Christ's ministry at Havre de Grace United Methodist Church is appreciated – especially while we are unable to gather for worship. To continue your support of Christ's ministry through our church when you are unable to attend, there are several options:

- 1) Gifts may be mailed to or dropped off at the church office via the mail slot in the door;
- 2) Some donors have found bill-pay options offered by their bank convenient, and
- 3) We have an on-line donation option on our website.

Thank you for your ongoing faithful and generous support. It has allowed us to remain here seeking to serve others and transform lives in Jesus' name by providing spiritual care.

Church Trivia

1. Black History Month is only celebrated in the U.S.
True or False?
2. The first Black History Month celebration in the U.S. took place when?
A. 1957
B. 1970
C. 1985
D. 2000

Answers on page 9.

Covid Mask Safety Information

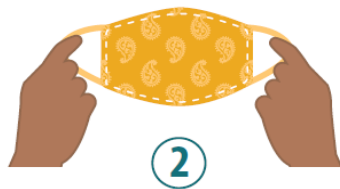
Submitted by Pat

With COVID numbers rising AGAIN, let's review the proper wearing and taking off of our masks.

How to take off a mask



Carefully, untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops



Handle only by the ear loops or ties



Fold outside corners together



Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing



CS 319876-O April 28, 2021 8:45 AM

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Thoughts from our Lay Leader

Submitted by Pat with blessings and peace

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



I would like to thank all the ladies who hand-made scarves for our shelter guests. We received a total of 74 beautiful scarves! THANK YOU!

On January 10, our Prayer Circle members made and took 20 dinners to our guests at the Emergency Winter Shelter at the Days Inn in Aberdeen.

In addition to February including Valentine's Day it is also Black History Month. Are you aware that our Conference has a Racial Justice initiative that speaks to "systemic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all"? To achieve this the Conference has Racial/Ethnic Ministries and a Racial Justice Team. As we learned during our Reconciling Discernment time, "The UMC proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The UMC recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history and continues to cause painful division and marginalization." Due to the long history of racism, white supremacy and killing of unarmed Black people, "the UMC cries out for racial justice now." The BWC has developed a commitment, "We Rise United For All to Be Free" where individuals and/or congregations can sign that they will work towards this goal. If you'd like more information on this commitment and/or the processes the UMC is pursuing, please visit BWCUMC.org, click on Racial Justice. There is a mountain of information from books and videos to how to start a conversation about racial justice and much more.

As always, should anyone have any questions, concerns, ideas PLEASE do not hesitate to contact me.

My prayer is that you all have a beautiful month filled with all the blessings and love you can hold.

Give Up That Candy Bar for Lent and Buy Some Work Gloves

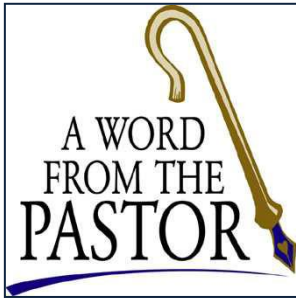
Submitted by Tom and the Missions Team



Lent is the season when we honor the 40 days following Jesus' baptism, when he went into the wilderness without food and water. There he was tempted by Satan and Jesus wrestled with temptation, much as we do, but remained true to God's mission for him. After rejecting Satan's temptations, Jesus left the wilderness to begin his ministry in Galilee.

We often give up something we like for Lent, but this is often a means of fulfilling one of our own resolutions such as to lose weight, or to give up a bad habit and these are inwardly focused. We have an opportunity this year to focus more on the Grace of God that was shared with us by Jesus. Jesus' ministry focused on helping others in need. During Lent this year, the Missions Team is offering a way we can reach out in a Christ-like manner to help others in need. Beginning **March 2**, we will be collecting items for UMCOR's cleaning buckets that are provided to those recovering and cleaning up from disasters. Stay tuned for more information as the season approaches. We will publish a list of items needed and information on how to participate.

In the Night of Winter



*--Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? –
Isaiah 43: 18-19a*

Dear Fellow Disciples:

There is beauty in winter. There is the stark clarity of bare trees against blue sky. There is the possibility of quiet snowfall at night and glistening ice in the sunlight. If I'm honest, however, winter brings a lot more cold, wet darkness than anything else. February is a month of winter with bits of spring in it. As a kid, we would go out on those warmer days in February to prune grape vines and fruit trees, to prepare for the summer to come. Most of the month, though, it was just muddy and cold.

Sometimes in life we are in seasons of wintry gray bleakness. The present Covid surge has sent us scurrying for safe cover and overwhelmed our health care providers. It is the continuation of a pandemic that has been with us for almost two years. We are tired of it and the concern it brings and the restrictions it has placed on our lives. I am reminded of the comment of a despondent Phil Connors in the movie "Groundhog Day" when he says, "This winter will never end."

In the passage above God, through the prophet, is trying to inspire hope in a despondent people living in exile. The Hebrews are about to be liberated to return to their homeland. So, God tells the people not to look back to the good times before the Exile but to look forward, to look up. For God is going to do a *new* thing. "It springs forth; don't you see it?" The truth is sometimes we *can't* see ahead, or at least not very well. Sometimes we see only dimly as through fog or at night. To be fair to the Hebrews, at this point they have been in exile for about 70 years! That's a long winter! That's a long time to wait for freedom!

Faith persists, however, in the absence of sight. Faith is having hope when we cannot see ahead. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11: 1). And as the poet and man-of-faith, Wendell Berry, has written in his novel "Hannah Coulter," "You think winter will never end, and then, when you don't expect it, when you have almost forgotten it, warmth comes and a different light."



Today, as I was out walking, it wasn't any warmer but the days are growing longer and I found a patch of earth in someone's front lawn that had the smallest green shoots sprouting in it. They will likely soon be covered in ice and snow but they will still be there, even if unseen – a promise of spring to come.

So, God is doing a new thing in our lives, too. Do we perceive it? We cannot go back to the way things were in the days before Covid, but there is a spring yet to be. It "springs forth." Let us look for it with hope!

May God bless you, keep you safe and give you hope to carry on.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Norman



Havre de Grace United Methodist Church

"Blessed to be a blessing.... reaching the unreached"

**"God has blessed us so that we might make his will known to all people
that all people may praise God." Psalm 67:1-3**

Here, across the street, and around the world

Susquehanna Ministerium

We are More Together

Submitted by Pastor Norman

One of the missions we regularly support is the Susquehanna Ministerium. This a cooperative effort of the congregations in the Havre de Grace area (including Level, Darlington and parts of Aberdeen). Not only does the Ministerium allow for fellowship and networking with other faith leaders, it also serves our community.

This past year many of our usual programs were canceled due to the Covid pandemic but some continued in modified form:

- The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was provided by pick-up or delivery only (we help underwrite this).
- Support was provided for Extreme Family Outreach (an after-school program focusing on residential neighborhoods in special need) which supplied families with masks and food during this pandemic.
- Support was provided for Grace Place which continues providing lunches despite being unable to cook and serve on-site for Covid health and safety reasons. They have ramped up their gifts of groceries and items for baby-care as they see the need. In fact, the Ministerium was originally created to launch Grace Place.
- Support was provided for Blessings in a Backpack, a weekend meal program for students of Have de Grace Elementary School, as the need renewed and increased when school re-opened for in-person instruction in September.
- An interfaith on-line Memorial Service (using ZOOM and YouTube) for all those families who had lost loved ones to Covid-19 in Harford County was provided the community to give a time of honoring, healing and partial closure, especially for those who had been prevented from celebrating their loved ones' lives by health restrictions.
- Networking support was provided Harford County Hope for the Homeless Alliance's Emergency Winter Shelter and is being repeated for the 2022 winter season.
- A large grant was made to Susquehanna Habitat for Humanity as they have faced increased costs of materials and the need to use paid contractors rather than volunteer builders due to Covid risks, and as their clients have struggled to make mortgage payments in the face of reduced employment due to Covid.
- Support for our local health care providers was given via networking to our members to make cards or posters or send food, and focusing our gratitude for them at our annual Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Celebration.

God is good all the time. All the time, God is good.

MISSIONS NEWS

Missions News Continued

In future years we hope to restart some programs we simply had to discontinue during the pandemic: Baccalaureate for the graduates of Havre de Grace High School (including providing free Bibles), support for the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, sponsorship of the Good Friday Cross Walk and leadership for the Blessing by the Bay celebration.

Thanks to the blessing of your generous support of Missions we have able to be “blessed to be a blessing” to our community.

Christian Love and Sympathy

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family and friends of:



William John ("Johnny") who died December 27, 2021 with Covid and pneumonia after battling other underlying conditions. A member since professing faith in Jesus Christ May 22, 2007, Johnny provided special music for worship sometimes and loaned equipment to our Praise Team for outdoor presentations during Graw Days. Johnny also played in the praise band for Bay City Ministries on Market Street. A man with a deep sense of humor who was honest and open about himself and his faith, he liked to quote Pastor Ed who once described Johnny as "a diamond in the rough."

Gloria May, who died January 14, 2022 after battling dementia. She was a long-time faithful supporter of our congregation (at least since 1981). A great cook, her faith was reflected in her kindness and care-giving to others -- including filling her 1968 GTO with boys from the "Pop Warner Football League" and taking them to McDonalds for burgers. They called her "The Hamburger Lady!"

May God comfort all who mourn through the love of Christ our risen Lord.

Thank You

To **Pastor Norman, Christine and the members of Havre de Grace United Methodist Church:**

On behalf of Meadowvale Elementary School, I would like to thank you for reaching out to provide three of our families with Christmas presents and stockings. I would also like to thank you for providing three new bikes! The family was over-the-moon excited when they saw the bikes. Rain or shine, I believe we will see three happy children riding their bikes on Christmas. Each year you exceed our expectations. We are truly blessed by this partnership. Thank you for blessing them and showing them kindness and compassion. We are truly blessed to have your support. -- **Mark, Principal.**

Thank You to the congregation for your generous giving. This past Christmas, we decorated the sanctuary with silk poinsettias. Donations that would have been spent on live poinsettias were instead given toward three missions that emphasize children, resulting in an extra gift for them for the holidays. They were: **Harford Family House**, \$485; **Redbird Mission**, in Appalachian Kentucky, \$1,145; and **Children of Zion Village** in Namibia, Africa, \$1,075. The total amount was \$2,705. Thank you for always being a thoughtful congregation.



"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."
Charles Schulz

Seeing Life Through My Window

Submitted by Ridge



Becoming older is a full-time job. It started when I no longer had a car and could not just drive whenever I chose. It became more complicated when I began to have difficulty walking. The covid pandemic made everything more stressful for all of us. Being inside my apartment for days at a time was a new experience. Thank God my cat, Petey, is creative.

My kitchen table is next to a window, on the second floor. My Bible and the Upper Room start my day. I am conscious of the fact that God has created everything I see. Seeing the sunset with flames of color remind me of the tongues of fire at Pentecost. Storms in summer are a delight with flashes of light across the sky. Surely everyone is amazed at this display!

I see friends in the apartment building. Several of us gather on Mondays to pray for each other and those we love and our world. God joins us together to care for each other.

When the weather is nice, I go for walks and look for surprises from God. One day last week I saw a snapdragon growing in a crack in the sidewalk up next to the foundation of a house.

I am more forgetful now. My friend Judy and I remind each other what day it is and laugh. I have a list of things to do every day and try to stay on track: Petey reminds me about feeding him. I do crossword puzzles to keep my gray matter charged. The library is next door, and I enjoy reading. I find that reading the scriptures out loud helps me stay focused. My goals are to be “clothed and in my right mind” as long as I can, with Jesus' help.

I hope that I don't forget who I am. I will remember to sit at the window and see God's world no matter what. And I know with all my heart that God will never forget my name.

Community Information

GriefShare Groups

- **Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., February 1 through May 10**, Mountain Christian Church, 1802 Mountain Road, Joppa. Contact: Patricia. Cost: Free
- **Mondays from 12 to 1:30 p.m., February 7 through May 2**. Conowingo Baptist Church, 151 Rock Springs Road, Conowingo. Contact: Betty. Cost: Free
- **Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 7 to 8:30 p.m., February 3 through April 7**. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1200 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air. Contact: the Church Office at 410-838-3178. Cost: Free

Red Cross needs blood! Donors of all blood types, especially O and those giving platelets are urged to make an appointment to give now. To donate, visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Feeling stressed, lonely or upset? For mental health here are some resources:

- *Lonely? Call 211 or visit 211MD.org
- *Upset? Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746
- *Stressed? Text TALK to 741741
- *Emotional Health Crisis Line: 1-866-342-6892
- *Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- *Optum Public Crisis Line: 1-866-342-6892

UM Upper Chesapeake Health has many classes and support groups meeting virtually, including car seat checkups. Simply go to: umms.org/uch/community/events to survey their offerings.

Grace Place Food Donations Needed

Help restock our pantry at Grace Place with the following items:

Canned tuna fish (5 oz)	Baked beans
Canned chicken (5 oz)	Oodles of Noodles
Canned soups	Canned spaghetti sauce
Fruit (4-oz cups)	Canned Spaghetti O's
Macaroni and cheese	Peanut butter
Ramen noodles	Jelly
Box of spaghetti	Canned ravioli
Canned chili	Canned meat
Instant oatmeal	



Toiletry items (no razors)
Target brand diapers (sizes 5 and 6)
Target brand pull-ups (size 4T-5T, boy or girl)
Target brand wipes (scent free)

PLEASE – No glass jars, outdated food or fresh milk or bread.

Grace Place is currently trying to distribute foods in reusable fabric bags rather than plastic. If you have extra clean reusable grocery bags at your house, please consider donating them to help reduce plastic use in our community. Our guests at Grace Place appreciate your generosity. God bless you.

Church Office and the Red Cupboard

Any items we are collecting (food, reusable grocery bags, etc.) may be put in the red cupboard by the office door under the breezeway. We have folk willing to sort items and get them to the right place. Upper Room devotionals are available in the Red Cupboard for pick-up. Please call the office for Church Directories or Adult Sunday School books.

Trivia Answers



Answer: False. Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, is an annual observance in Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It began as a way to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated each February in the United States and Canada, and in October in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland.

ANSWER: B., 1970

Black educators and members of Black United Students at Kent State University organized the first month-long event. In 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the U.S. Bicentennial celebration. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Source: UMC.org

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Have you submitted your name and date?

If you would like your name included, please contact the church office with the date of your birthday and/or anniversary and your name.

Birthdays



February 1 Gardner Bonnie	February 2 Ron	February 4 Len	February 6 Erik
February 8 Donna	February 11 Donna	February 14 Payton	February 23 Jim

March 13 Jenee	March 22 Selona	March 23 Jesse	March 25 Bob
March 26 Melania	March 27 Courtney Lee	March 29 Pamela Ryan	March 31 Cathey

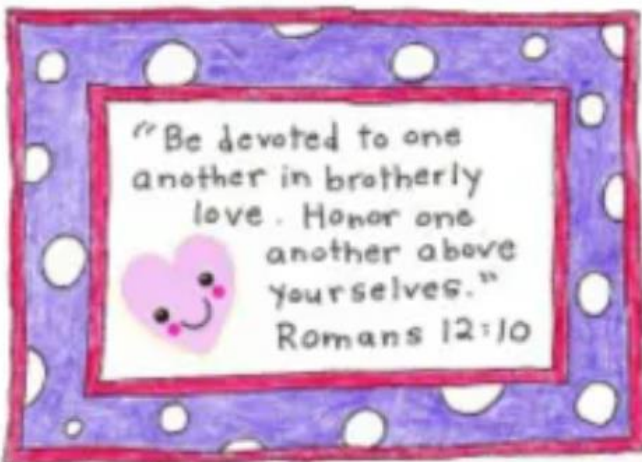
Anniversaries

February 8 Dan and Leslie
February 11 Jerry and Lynn
February 25 Walter and Kay

March 5 Robert and Terri
March 15 Shawn and Pam

Kids' Corner

Valentines courtesy of happyhomefairy.com



Prayer List

To update the Prayer List or add a name, please contact Anita or the church office at 410-939-2464 or hdgumc@verizon.net. Thank you!

Michelle	Mindy	Jimmy
Craig	Cathey	Dan
Josh	Cody	Sharon
Tammy	Lois	Shawn
Katie	Jody	Pattie
Keith	Cheryl	Renee
Johnette	Edith	Sandy
Vern	Marco	Carl
Janet	Jessica	Pat
Lindsey	Tommy	Owen
Macy	Courtney	Bob
Patricia	Gerald	Jane
Ron	Maxine	Clayton
Steve	Alice Perry	
Elsa	Kimberly	Beverly
Tina	Jack	Frank
Suzy	Eric	Mary Ann
Vicky	Kerri Ann	Nelson
Rick	Sharon	Rick
Tom	Emily	

*All who are battling COVID-19; an end to racism, Reconciling Team, conflict in the Middle East, persecuted Christians and Jews, disaster victims, families dealing with suicide, first responders, veterans, police, all educators and students, the homeless, health care providers.

** Family and friends of Gloria and of Karen, Tammy's mother.

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All newsletter contributions should be left in the Church Office in the box marked for The Visitor or e-mailed to the Church.

Deadline for submission of items is the 2nd Sunday of the month by 10:30 a.m. preceding publication.

Anything received after that date will be placed in the next month's newsletter.

The editors reserve the right to edit for content and space.

We welcome your suggestions and contributions for The Visitor.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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Please join us for worship.

Schedule

11:00 AM Livestream only

9:45 AM Sunday School in varied forms

For all other program information,
please phone 410-939-2464