

# The Visitor

## May 2023



**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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### Sunday Worship Times

**8:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**11 a.m. in the Sanctuary and Live Stream**

### Worship Services

Worship is at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Livestream worship is at 11 a.m.

Masks and physical distancing are optional for worship. Although most of the ropes on the pews have been removed, the center section of the sanctuary is still roped for physical distancing. We are asked to please watch on-line from home if we feel ill. Our church strives to be a safe and nurturing place for all of God's people.

For individuals not wishing to appear in the Livestream service at 11 a.m. seats behind the projector and in the rear gallery are not in the view of the camera.

Nursery care is not available, but we welcome children of all ages in worship and the Nursery may be used by parents with their children.

### Sunday School

Sunday School Grades Pre-K through middle school meet at 9:45 a.m. in-person in their classrooms. Middle School class plans to walk to Concord Point Coffee on the first Sunday of each month.

Senior High Sunday School meets Mr. Phil by the church sign on Congress Avenue to go to Concord Point Coffee.

Adult Sunday School meets weekly at 9:45 a.m. Sundays in both the Mentzer Parlor and by Zoom.

# Worship In-Person and Live Stream



*Through the remaining Sundays of the season of Easter leading up to Pentecost, we will engage in a series of sermons reminding us of the valuable fundamentals for a life of faith and the commitments that are foundational to our identity as disciples of Christ our risen Lord.*

## **May 7**

Celebration of Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 14: 1-14

“Asking for Help”

When we are baffled by our faith it is good to ask questions.

## **May 14**

Festival of the Christian Home

We celebrate and encourage the nurture provided within the Christian home.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22-31; Jn 14: 15-21

“Lighting the Way”

Light the way as we all grope in the dark.

## **May 21**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday

We remember Christ’s ascension and our mandate to be his presence in the world.

Isaiah 37: 31-32; Acts 1: 6-14

“Seeking Guidance Together”

We need each other for guidance and help, and we draw strength from shared prayer.

## **May 28**

### **Pentecost**

We celebrate the gift of God’s Holy Spirit and the Birthday of the Church.

Memorial Sunday

We remember those who have died in our nation’s wars and honor those who have served.

Acts 2: 1-21, I Cor 12: 4-13

“Being Moved”

We are called to keep watch together for the presence of the Spirit, knowing that all who are part of the body of Christ are valued.

# Annual Conference

**Annual Conference 2023** will be held **May 31 through June 3**. It will be the first in-person annual session for holy conferencing since 2019. This year's theme is "All About Love." The guiding scripture is from John 13:31-35; *"When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'"*

# A Message from Bishop Easterling

*Submitted by Pat, CLS*

Friends, below is a letter from our Bishop on the status of disaffiliations in our conference, prior to the awaited vote of General Conference next year. Please continue to pray for our denomination, our bishops and our elders as they continue to lead us through these liminal times. And, yes, Mt. Zion in Churchville, voted to disaffiliate in March.

*March 20, 2023*

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Baltimore-Washington Conference:

I greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. It is with sadness that The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church informs you that the Conference has been sued by 38 churches demanding immediate separation from The United Methodist Church. We are deeply grieved by this as we seek to be a church united in love and in mission. Pursuant to our protocol, we do not comment on ongoing litigation. However, the issues raised are not novel. Here are some broad, important thoughts to keep in mind:

The BWC Trustees have created a path for those churches that wish to depart, according to the process adopted at the 2019 General Conference, which is set out in The Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553. The Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church, the denomination's highest judicial body or "court," has consistently ruled that paragraph 2553 is the only path for disaffiliation from the UMC. Despite our willingness to work with every church seeking to utilize this process, these congregations have refused to follow The Book of Discipline, choosing to file this lawsuit instead.

Since 2019, a relatively small number of churches of varying sizes and means in our Conference have followed the Discipline and used paragraph 2553 to discern disaffiliation, living into their connectional obligations. At the time of this statement, 85 churches have formally entered the disaffiliation process.

The United Methodist Church is a hierarchical and connectional denomination. As a conciliar church, our governance and obligations originate from our General, Jurisdictional, and Annual Conferences. We are also connectional. Connectionalism is one of the core theological doctrines of John Wesley that weaves the entire denomination together at every level, from the shared system for appointing bishops and clergy, to shared theology, to connected ministries, to holding property in trust, to connectional conferencing and legislative decision-making. What these churches that are suing the conference seek is vastly different from our open and transparent process, which occurs in church conferences and at our annual conference session. It is an attempt to undermine the core of the connectional commitments all churches and conferences in our denomination have to one another. And it is outside the bounds of established church law, doctrine and theology.

We ask that any groups involved in the disaffiliation process uphold the obligations and responsibilities set forth in paragraph 2553 and the BWC disaffiliation policy, which were established pursuant to the General Conference in 2019. Further, we ask that they not disparage or cause spiritual harm to other United Methodist churches, other members in their churches, other pastors, or the Conference. We remain committed to upholding the core tenants of our Book of Discipline and the rulings of our Judicial Council. To do otherwise has significant unintended consequences. For instance, an abrupt separation creates significant issues that could damage benefits and pensions for retired pastors and their spouses who devoted their lives to service. Further, the mission shares, which paragraph 2553 require, give support to our camps, as well as campus ministries, to natural disaster response projects, to food and homeless ministries, and to vital missions in our communities and abroad. Without the committed funding from the United Methodists churches in the BWC, these ministries will no longer be able to flourish.

As the servant leader of such a diverse and dynamic conference, it breaks my heart that any feel the need to withdraw from our connection. It is possible to hold differing theological beliefs and lovingly remain united as disciples of Jesus Christ. I give God thanks for the overwhelming majority of laity and clergy who remain committed to our ministry within the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Even when we find ourselves in disagreement, we are still called to conduct ourselves in ways that bring honor and glory to God. It is our prayer that this matter will be resolved quickly. As the process is being faithfully addressed, may we all be in a posture of prayer for one another and our entire conference.

Blessings and peace,

**Bishop LaTrelle Easterling**

Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences

The United Methodist Church



## **Book of Discipline Paragraph 2553 provides information on disaffiliation.**

Folk may be wondering what paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline is:

Posted on October 27, 2021.

The United Methodist Church operates under the Trust Clause, a provision in the Book of Discipline that dates back to 1796 and states that a local church holds its property, in trust, for the benefit of the entire denomination. According to the General Council on Finance and Administration, “the principal reason for this Trust Clause is to ensure that United Methodist local church property will continue to be used for United Methodist Church purposes.”

In recent years, some churches have expressed a desire to leave the denomination over the United Methodist stance on human sexuality. At the special session of General Conference in 2019, legislation was passed that relates to the Trust Clause. It is found in paragraph 2553 of the 2016 Book of Discipline and titled “Disaffiliation of a Local Church Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality.”

The process for disaffiliation is laid out in the subparagraphs of 2553, including the rights of a local church “to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property,” once a prescribed process is completed.

The process for disaffiliation and release of the Trust Clause involves several financial payments including:

- The local church would pay 50 percent of the assessed value of that property, in recognition of the historic partnership between the local church and the denomination.
- The local church would also pay an additional 12 months of mission shares (aka apportionments) beyond the disaffiliation date.
- The local church will additionally pay the church’s Fair Share of the unfunded pension liability as a portion of the total Annual Conference liability allotted to every local church.

There are additional payments that may not apply to every congregation.

- If there are any un-paid mission shares during the twelve months prior to disaffiliation, they must be brought up to date.
- If there are any outstanding loans made by the Conference to the local church – these must be paid off.

- The congregation must satisfy any outside debts or obligations, or arrange to have them transferred to the new entity which will be established when the congregation sets itself up as an independent organization. For example, if the local church has a mortgage on its property from a bank, it must arrange with the bank to transfer that mortgage to the new (non-United Methodist) independent local church.
- And if the local church has any endowments, gifts or funds that were restricted to the benefit of the United Methodist Denomination (or its predecessor denominations) the congregation will have to arrange to have those funds returned to the donor or the donors' heirs.

In addition to these payments, there are some additional terms which require action, but not necessarily payment.

- Any congregation who leaves the denomination will no longer be able to use the name "United Methodist" or the cross-and-flame logo, and will surrender its non-profit status under the IRS group ruling granted to the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist church.
- The congregation needs to create a new entity, and transfer all obligations, assets and organizational documents to the new entity.
- All costs related to the transfer of the property must be paid by the local congregation.
- Any local church that has a reverter clause in its deed must file for release of the reverter or return the referenced property.
- The congregation will be responsible for obtaining pastoral leadership and assume all responsibilities for its Pastor's salary and benefits after the date of disaffiliation.

Churches seeking to petition for disaffiliation must:

- Broadly publicize a Church Conference meeting to as many of the members of the church as possible, and in a timely fashion (at least 10 days, but not more than 125 days). The motion to disaffiliate must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting
- Complete a written disaffiliation agreement. The terms and conditions for disaffiliation are to be established between the individual local church and the Annual Conference Board of Trustees (with the advice of the Cabinet and other specified conference officers). These are required to include the Standard Conditions which have been established by the General Council on Finance and Administration. In addition, the agreement may include other terms established by the Conference Trustees and must include the effective date of disaffiliation. The agreed upon terms and conditions must then be "memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement between the annual conference and the trustees of the local church."
- Have the disaffiliation ratified by a majority of members at a session of the Annual Conference.

The new paragraph 2553 bases the ability of a local church to leave the denomination on a few limiting factors.

One is that the disaffiliation must be "For Reasons of Conscience" ... specifically, "Regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference OR the related actions or inactions of its annual conference...."

There is also a time limit on this ability. The provisions of 2553 expire on December 31, 2023, and the process must start early enough to complete all steps by this date.

Paragraph 2553 does not apply in the case of a congregation that wishes to disaffiliate for any reason or reasons not related to human sexuality. In these cases, the long-standing provisions of paragraph 2549 would apply as they always have.

# VBS 2023 – Stellar – Shine Jesus' Light – June 19-23

*Submitted by Nancy, VBS Coordinator*

VBS prep is underway. Materials have arrived, and we are so excited to welcome the children for the best week of summer. This year we will Shine Jesus' Light!

Each night we will gather in the sanctuary for Sing and Play Blast Off! We will sing our theme song and be introduced to our Character, Bible point, Bible Story and verse. We will see our VBS special friend each night as he helps us to see how to Shine Jesus' Light. Following Blast Off, our pre-school friends will go to their room to complete their stations, while the rest of our friends are divided into groups to complete their stations. They are accompanied by their crew leaders, who have just as much fun as the kids!

At Stellar Bible Adventures, Pastor Norman will present the Bible story and verse and tie it into the Bible Point. While at Bible Adventures, Galactic Snacks will be served. Miss Pam and Miss Susie are looking forward to snack time. The second station that the kiddos will participate in is All Star Games. Weather permitting, the children will participate in fun games that will reinforce the message of the day. Mr. Paul and his helpers are looking forward to having a blast with the games. The last station will be Imagination Station where children will work with Miss Sue Ellen and her talented helpers to create crafts to reinforce the message of Shining Jesus' Light. We will gather in the sanctuary at 8 p.m. for Cosmic Closing for more singing, a review of the day, and the crowd favorite Spotlight on VBS where we will see ourselves as part of the Bible Story. Miss Niki is looking forward to taking your photos.

This year, we will learn that when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad and when people need help – We Shine Jesus' Light!

An adult class will also be held with Ridge leading that group.

Each year, we participate in a mission project. This year we will be collecting non-perishable food and supplies for the Food Pantry at the Havre de Grace Middle-High School. This pantry serves families from all of the Havre de Grace Schools.

We ask that you complete a registration form for each child. They can be emailed, mailed or dropped off at the church, or simply brought with you to VBS!

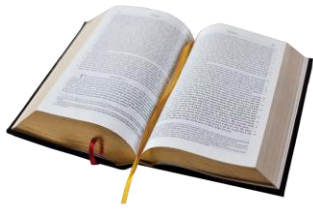
If you have any questions or you would like to help at VBS, please email Nancy.

We are looking forward to the BEST WEEK OF SUMMER!





## Conference Events



**Step Out Event: Discerning A Call to Ministry:** Sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., **Saturday June 24**, at Wesley Freedom UMC, 961 Johnsville Road, Sykesville. Are you wondering if God has huge plans in store for your life? Are you sensing that God might have a career for you in ministry? Are you ready to STEP OUT and see where God is calling you? Then join us for our STEP OUT event for an awesome day of worship, breakout sessions, and personal reflection. You will hear from leaders in our church and have the opportunity to ask questions about all

the ways YOU could serve God! Cost \$10 pp, includes lunch (scholarships available). Register here:

<https://www.bwcumc.org/event/12297810-2023-06-24-step-out-discerning-a-call-to-ministry/>

**Embark on a Pilgrimage:** You're invited to take a sacred journey of discovery and faith as part of the BWC's Pilgrimage Week, May 1 to 6. To culminate the week, a Social Justice Pilgrimage will kick off on May 6 at 8:30 a.m. It will start at the Mission Center in Fulton and explore five historical sites in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. The featured sites include The Methodist Building, Mt. Zion UMC and the Mt. Zion/Female Union Band Cemetery in Georgetown, Sharp Street Memorial UMC, and Old Otterbein UMC in Baltimore. The tour costs \$75 and includes lessons on pilgrimage, informative tours of each site, opportunities for spiritual reflection and lunch. Learn more and register. For more information, contact the Rev. Bonnie.

**Blessing by the Bay 2023:** This annual event blessing the Bay, the City and our region is from **3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 7** at Concord Point Park. Sponsored by the Susquehanna Ministerium, it will include spoken word and musical blessings.

**Assisting migrants** with personal needs: As migrants continue to arrive in Washington, DC, we ask you to support our new neighbors. Donate now to help purchase much-needed undergarments for children and adults.

- Give online at: [bwcumc.org/migrantrcrisisdonations](https://bwcumc.org/migrantrcrisisdonations)
- Text MIGRANT to 410-220-2402
- Mail a check, made payable to "BWC Treasurer" with "migrant" in the memo field, to Baltimore-Washington Conference Center, 11711 E Market Place, Suite 1, Fulton, MD, 20759, ATTN: Dr. Emma Arely Escobar

**Celebrating History:** Strawbridge Shrine, near New Windsor, celebrates its annual Colonial Days on **Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to noon**. This free, family-friendly event features skill demonstrations, music and tours of the shrine where Methodism began in America in 1760.

**Sign up now to join Bishop LaTrelle Easterling on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, January 29 through February 7, 2024. This sacred journey to Israel and the West Bank will be hosted by the Society for Biblical Studies and costs \$3,439. The theme of the trip is, "The Land of Jesus: Then and Now." Visit [bwcumc.org](https://bwcumc.org) for more information.

## Favorite Hymns

Our Favorite Hymn Survey is complete, and we have over 100 favorite hymns to use in worship. We try to use at least one favorite hymn each Sunday. The most favored hymn is “The Old Rugged Cross.” The second most favored one is the Easter hymn “In the Garden.” Third most favorite is “How Great Thou Art” and tied for Fourth Place are: “It is Well with My Soul,” the contemporary hymn “Here I Am, Lord” (which may have copyright issues) and “Lord of the Dance” (which some you really like and others really don’t). Several hymns from “The Faith We Sing” book were chosen as well as four that are outside any hymnal but may still be available. Thanks for sharing your favorite hymns!

## Relay for Life Event

*Submitted by Janyce*



This year’s Relay for Life event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 20** at Concord Point Lighthouse from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Our team is the Heralds of Hope, and the theme is Racing Against Cancer. Activities and laps are all tied to Maryland and the Preakness, as May 20 is also Preakness Day. We have lots of fun things planned, including live music and activities.

The Survivor and Caregiver lunch will occur at 4 p.m., so survivors and caregivers can join the fun of the Relay from the very start. To join this year’s team, visit [relayforlife.org/Harford](http://relayforlife.org/Harford). Please indicate if you are a caregiver or cancer survivor in order to receive an invitation to the luncheon.

For more information, contact Janyce, Heralds of Hope Team Captain.

Thank you for supporting the American Cancer Society in our Race for a Cure!

## Discipleship Opportunity with New Hope Outreach Ministry

*Submitted by Pat, CLS*

As an outreach of New Hope Christian Fellowship UMC, the New Hope Outreach Ministry in Edgewood is getting ready to reopen early this summer. It has been closed for the past three years due to COVID, and the trailer where the guests go for the day becoming unusable. Thanks to a grant from the Conference, a triple wide, 70-foot trailer has been purchased for the continuation of this important ministry. This new trailer will offer laundry facilities and showers to the homeless guests! (These were not offered previously.)

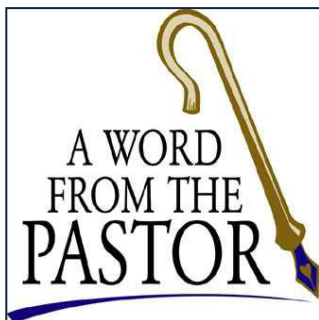
Homeless folk are welcomed daily starting at 9 a.m. They are safe and comfortable there and are offered a hot lunch each day. Bus passes and clothes can be obtained by the guests.

Jackie who runs this ministry is looking for volunteers to help coordinate the food pantry, meal scheduling, clothes closet, computer lab and whoever would like to help out at the direction of our Lord.

If you have an open and compassionate heart to help out, please contact Jackie.

Thank you for praying on where you might fit in on this important mission.





## To Be Continued

*--After these things (appearing to Mary Magdalene, Thomas and other disciples) Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias.... Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, ... and (some) others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*  
*--John 21: 1-3*

Dear Fellow Disciples:

In the days before Netflix, Disney+ and other streaming services, when TV shows could only be viewed when they were telecast, most TV series episodes were self-contained stories that unfolded within the time slot allotted them. If an episode ended with the story-line unfinished and the words *"To Be Continued"* on the screen, that was a disappointment. What if we couldn't watch the following week? Would we never know what happened? (Thank goodness most TV series were re-run over the summer!) There was a sense of suspense. What would happen? How would the characters in the story be impacted?

The Gospels end with the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. Most of them include accounts of the appearance of the risen Christ. The final chapter of the Gospel of John begins, therefore, with an odd note in the passage above. After Christ's appearance to Mary Magdalene, Thomas and to some other disciples – some of them more than once – Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two others simply return to fishing. This was their work before being called by Jesus. In other words, the resurrection of Jesus, their friend, mentor, rabbi, Messiah and savior seems to have made no difference in their lives!

As the Gospel continues, Jesus appears to them again, leads them to a great catch of fish, feeds them, reconciles with Peter and calls them to feed and tend his sheep.

This year in the month of May we will be celebrating Ascension Sunday when we remember how the risen Christ leaves us in charge of his Church and his ministry – surely a scary prospect for him given the level of his disciples' commitment just described above! We will also celebrate Pentecost when the gift of God's Holy Spirit energizes the disciples, births the Church and endows us with gifts for service. These stories and others are included in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles – the *continuation* of the gospel after the resurrection.

It can be easy, as human beings, to feel let-down after Easter, but Easter is *to be continued*. Christ calls us to *continued* service, to *continue* living resurrected lives. That involves suspense, excitement and hope as we look for how God's work in us and the world will unfold! Moreover, the grace of God is that the risen Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, comes to us again, and again, and again – just as Jesus returns to Peter and his fishing buddies. Also, the Holy Spirit energizes and gifts us for healing, faithfulness and service in Christ's name -- so we, too, can experience the suspense and excitement of the disciples in the Early Church. Thanks be to God!

May you have a great continuation of Easter, always!

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**

## Tree of Life Ministry U.M.C. Dakotas Conference

*Submitted by Al*



One of the missions our church has supported for many years is *Tree of Life* in Mission, South Dakota on the Lakota Nation Rosebud reservation.

*Tree of Life* is a relief agency that serves several of the poorest counties in the United States. The reservation has an 80 percent unemployment rate and 50 percent of the Lakota people live in poverty. The badly needed ministries of *Tree of Life* include: The "Warm Welcome" feeding program and food pantry, a *Tree of Life* Boutique and thrift store, and a construction ministry.

The "Warm Welcome" ministry distributes over one and a half thousand pounds of groceries every year. It also provides 52,000 free meals annually. More than 200 families depend on this program for their food.

The *Tree of Life* Boutique is a clothing ministry depended on by many Rosebud families. With an average household income of only \$8,000, and many families of 10 or more members, this ministry of new and used clothes and small household items is the only source of these necessities available to many.

The *Tree of Life* construction ministry accepts volunteers in mission from churches around the country. The teams spend a week or more at the reservation making free repairs on approximately 50 rundown dwellings every year. Our church has even participated a couple of times by sending a group of folks to do this work. Several in our congregation today can tell you what a gratifying mission that was. This mission particularly helps achieve a *Tree of Life* goal of showing Native Americans Christian compassion and love for all peoples.

*Tree of Life* has made great strides in developing respect and understanding between cultures and breaking down racial prejudice and distrust. At the same time, it is changing lives in a positive way and is a very worthy recipient of our mission support.

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

**MISSIONS NEWS**

## Christian Love and Sympathy



Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Charles Osborn ("Mickey")** who died March 6, 2023. The husband of June and a former State Trooper, Sheriff's Deputy and test supervisor at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Mickey was skillful with his hands and stayed busy for almost 40 years after his retirement. A disciple of Christ, he revealed his faith in how he treated others. His life-philosophy was in-line with that old song, "A stranger's just a friend you do not know" and he was known for lifting the spirits of those around him.

Our Christian love and sympathy is also extended the family and friends of **Bernard Franklin ("Bernie")**, who died March 28, 2023. Bernie, a veteran of the US Navy, worked for many years in International Logistics Management doing exports for Maryland Cup Company and J.M. Huber (now Evonik). He was a member of the Young-at-Heart Club and American Legion Post #47. He became a member of our congregation October 8, 2006 by Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ and served for a time as the coordinator of our Worship Greeters at the 8:15 service. Bernie was part of our UM Men's Fellowship and he was an avid, though realistic, fan of the Orioles. He is survived by his wife, Doris.

May God comfort all who mourn through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

## Thank You

Because of your contributions for the **Easter Lilies for Missions**, Extreme Family Outreach, Homecoming Project Inc., and Red Bird Mission will have \$1,171 to share between them. Thank you for your generous support.

Thank you all for the cards, calls and texts during my recent back surgery and recovery. They've all put a smile on our faces when we opened them. It was really great to feel all the love and prayers coming from our Church Family. **Kim and Lisa**

I would like to thank everyone who called me and sent cards during my recent hospital stay. I am so happy I am able to attend Church once again. **Nancy**

Thank you to Pastor Norman and the Congregation for all your prayers, calls and cards expressing their support to me at the loss of Mickey. He truly was a wonderful husband and a good person. Thanks again. It was appreciated more than words can say. Sincerely, **June**.

## Thanksgivings

Congratulations to **Ian** who took 5<sup>th</sup> Place in a Ninja Warrior competition and won his heat in a swim race the same day! Keep up the good work staying in shape!

## Church Trivia

1. John Wesley was married.  
True or False

2. Sarah was the first wife of Abraham and the matriarch of the Hebrew people. What does her name, Sarah, mean?  
A. Chosen  
B. Princess  
C. Pure

Answers on page 13

## Grace Place Donations Needed

You can help restock our pantry at Grace Place with the following:

Canned tuna fish (5 oz)	Canned spaghetti O's
Canned chicken (5 oz)	Canned ravioli
Canned soups	Vienna sausage
Fruit (4-oz cups)	Spam
Macaroni and cheese	Baked beans
Ramen noodles (chicken, beef or shrimp)	
Canned chili (with or without beans)	

Target brand diapers (sizes 1, 3, 5 and 6)  
Target brand pull-ups (size 4T-5T, boy or girl)  
Target brand wipes (scent free)



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

Grace Place is trying to distribute food in reusable fabric bags to reduce plastic use in our community. If you have extra clean reusable grocery bags at your house, please consider donating them.

**\*\*When Grace Place cannot use items, we repurpose them to re-fill the Cupboard at St. John's and/or the Pantry at the Havre de Grace Middle-High School.**

## 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.

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410-939-2464 (phone) E-Mail: [hdgumc@verizon.net](mailto:hdgumc@verizon.net)  
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Pastor Norman, Editor  
Pam, Compositor  
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Ashley, Facebook

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

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.

## New Chair Needed for Animal Blessing Event

A Chair is needed for the annual Animal Blessing and Pet Expo held the second Sunday in September, with this year's event taking place on **September 10, 2023 from 12:30 to 3:30** at Concord Point Park. The event already has great committee members and just about runs itself, but it needs someone to oversee everything. If the Spirit moves you to take on this event, please contact Tammy, and she will give you all the details. Thank you for your consideration.



## Support of Christ's Ministry

Your continued support of Christ's ministry at Havre de Grace United Methodist Church is appreciated. 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 find 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 allows us to continue seeking to serve others and transform lives in Jesus' name by providing spiritual care.

## Summer Camp

Church Camp Summer Programs are available for rising second graders and older at Camp West River and Camp Manidokan. Brochures are available in the Church Office. Some limited financial support is available for our congregation.

## Trivia Answers

Source: [umc.org](http://umc.org)

Answer: True. In February 1751, John married Mary (Molly) Vazeille, the widow of a London merchant, in a private ceremony. Unfortunately, their marriage was rocky almost from the start.

Answer: B. Princess. In Hebrew the meaning of the name Sarah is "princess." Sarah was the wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac in the Bible. Her name was originally Sarai (quarrelsome), but God commanded that her name be changed to Sarah before the birth of her son. Scripture tells us that she was either 90 or 91 when Isaac was born. (Genesis 17:17)

## National Moment of Remembrance

*Courtesy of va.gov*

This year, Memorial Day is Monday, May 29. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

# 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

May 7 Nancy	May 9 Pamela
May 10 Dennis	May 18 Bridget

June 6 Alana Emily Bonnie	June 10 Katie	June 11 Emerson
June 12 David	June 14 Lee	June 17 Karen
June 18 Mary Jane Casey	June 20 Tatum	June 26 Laura

Happy  
Birthday

## Anniversaries

May 6 Dennis and Lee
May 16 Russ and Jenett

June 4 Ned and Linda
June 9 Jim and Trudy
June 23 Chet and Annabelle
June 25 John and Sandy
June 28 Keith and Nancy
June 30 Dan and Jennifer



## 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](mailto:hdgumc@verizon.net). Also, please call, text or email Anita with addresses if you are willing for her to send a get-well card (or email the church office or bring address to worship.) Thank you!

Dee	Dennis	Peggy
Katie	JoAnn	David
Joyce	Rex	Stan
Len	Sharon	Craig
Nathan	Ella	Linda
Sidney	Michael	Peggy
Joyce	Marilyn	Jane
Anna	Edna	
Betty	Gerald	Charlie
Lois	Jennine	Helga
John	Jack	Jack
Walter	Alayna	Jan
Mark	Rick	Jana
Larry	Patty	Oliver
Bruce	Janet	Shelby

\*All who are battling COVID-19; an end to racism, 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, the people of Ukraine and Russia, peace between nations, inner city crime, hospital workers, folk with addictions, an end to mass shootings, winter shelter, GriefShare group, Children of Zion Village, President Jimmy Carter.



## Community Information

**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
- \*Resources for substance abuse or suicidal thoughts: 988

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

## Church Calendar

**MAY 2023**

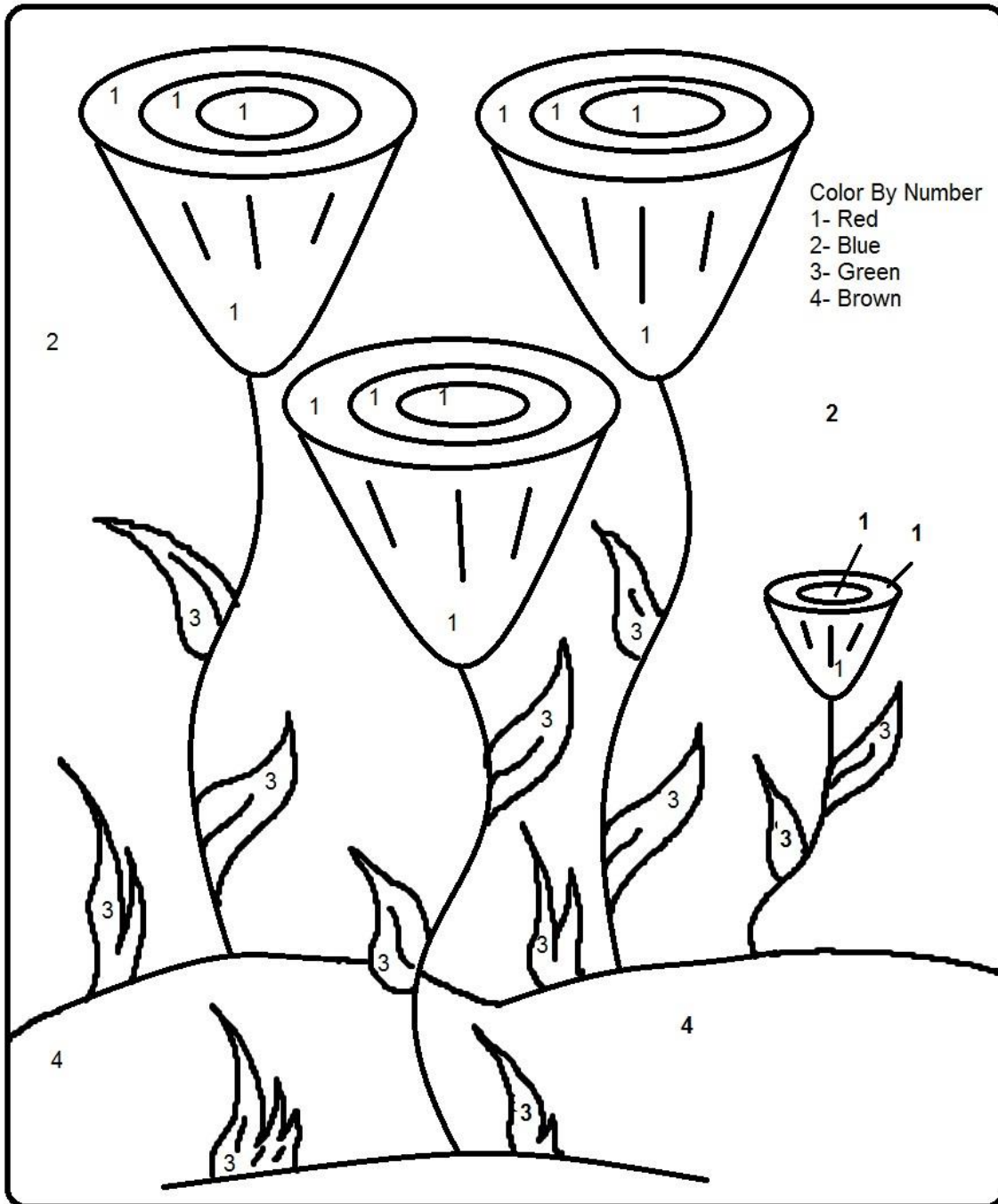
**Church Calendar**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA HdG City Elections	<b>3</b> 6 pm Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 10 am Prayer Circle 12 pm National Day of Prayer @ City Hall 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9 am Finance Audit Team mtg
<b>7</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter 12:30 pm VBS Planning Mtg 3 pm Blessing by the Bay @ Concord Point 4 pm GS #1711 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>8</b> 7 pm Trustees	<b>9</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>10</b> 6 pm Cub Scouts	<b>11</b> 10 am Prayer Circle 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 10 am Knitting Ministry @ Concord Pt. Coffee	<b>13</b> 8 am UMMen's Breakfast @ Chesapeake Grill & ZOOM
<b>14</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter Festival of the Christian Home	<b>15</b> 7pm Finance Team	<b>16</b> 2 pm Staff Mtg 6 pm AA 8 pm NA Welcome One Shelter	<b>17</b> 5 pm Missions Team 6 pm Cub Scouts	<b>18</b> 10 am Prayer Circle 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5-10pm Relay For Life @ Concord Point
<b>21</b> Seventh Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday 4 pm GS #1711 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>22</b> 7 pm Church Council	<b>23</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>24</b> 6 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Worship Team	<b>25</b> 10 am Prayer Circle 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 10 am Knitting Ministry @ Concord Pt. Coffee	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Pentecost; Memorial Sunday 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>31</b>	BWC Annual Conference May 31 – June 2		

**These four pretty flowers are for you mommy!**

**Happy Mother's Day!**

*Matthew 19:19-Honour thy father and thy mother...*



# Mother's Day Jokes

Courtesy of Parade.com

Q: What kind of flowers are best for Mother's Day?

A: Mums

Q: What did the panda give his mom?

A: A Bear hug

Q: What did the mama tomato say to the baby tomato?

A: Catch up

## Normal Day Vs. Mother's Day

### Normal Day



### Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day!



One Second Later



©Adrienne Hedger www.HedgerHumor.com

# Vacation Bible School 2023 Child Registration Form



**June 19<sup>th</sup> thru June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

(Please complete one form per child)

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last grade completed in school: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Permissions.** Please initial if you consent to the following:

I give permission for my child's photo to be taken for use during VBS. \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child's photo to be used by the church either in publication or on the web site. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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For VBS use only

Pre-K      k/1      2/3      4/5/6      Middle School

**Havre de Grace United Methodist Church**  
**101 South Union Avenue**  
**Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078-3007**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Bel Air, MD.**  
**Permit No. 2178**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

[ ]

[ ]

**Please join us for worship.**

**Schedule**

**8:15 AM In-Person**

**9:45 AM Sunday School**

**11:00 AM In-Person and Livestream**

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

