

# The Visitor

## August 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.

### 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. The center section of the sanctuary is still roped for those who want to be careful. 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 in or under the back balcony are not visible on 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. The TV in the Nursery is provided to watch worship. Directions for use are provided: Just turn it on and adjust the volume.

### Sunday School Resumes

Sunday School for all ages will resume on **September 10**. In the fall, our youngest class welcomes all children who are potty trained and at least age 3 by then.

We'll also welcome back all our other Pre-K through Grade 5 students and welcome back our Middle Schoolers to meet every Sunday.

Over the summer the Middle Schoolers are meeting for walks (July 30 & August 20 – all are welcome), the Senior Highs are continuing to meet with Mr. Phil to walk down to Concord Point Coffee and the Adult Class is continuing to meet in Mentzer Parlor and via Zoom.

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### Sunday Worship Times

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

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

# Summer Worship



## Summer Sermon Series: A Season of Creation

The second part of summer and into the fall we'll be exploring God's Creation under various topical themes. We modern folk have come to feel separated from the created order, and this hurts us. The truth is we are part of God's wonderful web of life. There is so much destruction evident in the world that we are in need of God's re-creation.

### August 6

Celebration of Holy Communion  
"Plants"

The earth brings forth vegetation that feeds, clothes and shelters us. It also provides us with medicines and fuel. Now we are more aware that it collects our waste carbon dioxide and gives us back oxygen to breathe. In Communion Jesus uses the products of fruit and grain to give us the food of Life.

### August 13

Blessing of School Supplies (for Havre de Grace Elementary School)  
"Earth"

The earth seems so large to us but seen from space we realize how fragile the "blue marble" is. It is our only habitat as human beings and God has placed us on it to care for it for our use and for the use of future generations.

### August 20

Blessing of Sports Equipment  
"Mountains"

The Hebrews were highlanders. So, mountains figure prominently in the Bible. They are places of vision, divine encounter and decision. Where are our mountains, where we see far, meet God and make life decisions?

### August 27

Celebration of the Baptismal Covenant  
Blessing of Backpacks (for those starting a new school year)  
"Water"

Water is necessary for life. In the Bible it was sometimes hard to find and, therefore, more precious. Violent conflicts happened over control of wells and other water sources. In Baptism, God provides us the Water of Life.

## 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 or use this QR code.

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.

# News from Sunday School

*Submitted by Nancy*



Summer is in full swing, and we hope you are enjoying your time with your family. Your Sunday school teachers are already planning the new year and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Last year we welcomed many new friends, and we are looking forward to adding more new friends this year. We would like to add a third-class upstairs and reconfigure our classes. Currently we have two classes (pre-k through grade 1 and grades 2-5). We would love to have a class devoted to our littlest learners (Pre-school aged) and thus allowing a class of kindergarten through grade 2, and a class of grades 3 through 5. To make

this a reality, we are in need of a teacher and an assistant. Materials and supplies are provided. If you would like to work with our sweet pre-school children, please contact Nancy. Our fall session starts on **September 10**. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and ends at 10:45 a.m.

Safe Sanctuary training is required.

## Walk-Pray-Listen Sessions

Walk-Pray-Listen sessions for our middle schoolers, and anyone else who wants to join us, will take place at 9:30 a.m. on **Sundays July 30 and August 20**. We will walk to Tydings Park one Sunday and around town the other, returning by 10:30 a.m. We will view some memorials and statues, ponder the moral issues behind them and pray about those issues. We will also ponder the social usefulness and moral issues suggested by various locations around town and pray about those.

## Prayer Chain Changes

We are presently in the process of updating the Prayer Chain. This is an easy way to serve God and your church family. How it works: The pastor, or someone else, notifies the lead person on the Chain, presently Anita Bliesener, when they receive notice that someone is in need of, or asking for, prayer. The lead person prays, then starts the Chain by calling the next person on the chain, then that person prays, then calls the next person and so on. If you have a cell phone, it is OK to text the next person should you know that person has a cell phone. We have a day Chain and an evening Chain. If you are interested, please call or email Pat with your name and which Chain that you prefer (or both). Thank you and God bless.

## New Grief Share Group

A new session of Grief Share is beginning **Tuesday, August 29 at 11 a.m.**, meeting in the Mentzer Parlor. If you have lost a loved one to death at least six months ago and are having a difficult time returning to “normal” this faith-based program may help you deal with your grief. Mourning to Joy runs 13 weeks, it will teach you how deal with your loss and keep you from getting stuck in sorrow. Facilitators this session are Patricia, Debbie, and Sandy. Please register online at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org).

# Lighthouse Congregation



Our Church Council met on June 26, 2023 and approved the following:

Our congregation, Havre de Grace United Methodist Church, has decided to become a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) of the United Methodist Church. In doing so, not only do we commit to remaining a part of the United Methodist Church, but we also commit to serving those who have lost their church homes through disaffiliation or closure. We will partner in this work in the following ways:

- i. Provide a welcoming place to belong during this time of grief and transition, for as long as the individual or group needs it. This includes a place with caring relationships, listening hearts, and unconditional love within a congregation that is confident it will not disaffiliate and continue to remain in the UMC.
- ii. Offer “No pressure” ministry opportunities. These will include worship, discipleship, and mission.
- iii. Organize local Beginning Again groups by proactively finding and connecting with individual persons and groups that feel displaced by disaffiliating churches.
- iv. Connect persons or groups with Conference and District resources to help them discern their next steps as they seek a new church home.

## Adopt A Scholar

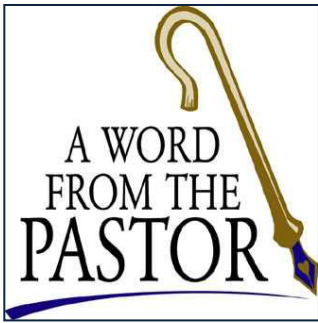
This year our church is sponsoring 14 children at the Havre de Grace Elementary School with school supplies. There are “bookbag tags” on the door going into the church (Education/Office side of the building) where you can pull a tag (or more) to purchase the items needed. Please be sure the tag is with your item when it is returned to the church. Items must be delivered to the church by **Sunday, August 13** in order to meet the deadline to get the bookbags to the school prior to the Open House. You can drop off your items when you come to church on Sundays in the boxes in the Welcome Center (Narthex) or drop off in the Church Office between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you would rather make a donation, please make checks payable to HdG UMC with School Backpacks in the memo line. Thank You.

## Walking with Spirit

This opportunity offers participants a chance to hear a brief talk on spiritual health by a clergyperson and then walk at your pace. Meet at the pavilion at Red Pump Elementary School in Bel Air at 5 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. All ages are welcome to this experience of inspiration, conversation and movement, led by Rev. Jane.

## Embracing Healing

This event offers God-centered ways to promote health and well-being. Adults and children are welcome to this one-day event on **Saturday, September 30** from 2 to 6 p.m. at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 3345 Charles Street, Fallston, MD 21047. Volunteers, led by Rev. Jane, will offer Healing Prayer, Reflexology, Journaling/Poetry, Reiki and Sound Meditation. Free will donations will be gladly accepted for local mission outreach.



## A Time for Every Purpose

*-For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

*—Ecclesiastes 3: 1*

Dear Fellow Disciples:

August is a sort of odd month it seems to me. On one hand it is the culmination of summer when gardens are in full production. On the other hand, it is the pivot to the beginning of a new school year. School calendars are an interesting study in local differences across the State of Maryland. Some schools, like those in Harford County, are beginning in late August. Others, such as Cecil County Public Schools, don't begin till after Labor Day in September. Then, there are those located in more western parts of the State, where the winter weather may be more severe, that begin closer to mid-August!

Earlier in the history of our State, school calendars were negotiated at an even more granular level. The teacher of a one-room school house would need to consult with farm-families around planting and harvesting needs. In some communities, school was open in late summer because there was a lull between cultivating and harvest.

The result of the current school calendar can be a sort of rush to get in last-minute vacations, family visits and school shopping trips. In other words, in order to make the needed preparations there are deadlines to meet. We don't always like deadlines, but they serve two good purposes, in my view: They are motivators to get things done and they mean that no more work needs to be done on that project (whatever it is) after the deadline is past.

The truth divined by the ancient philosopher-preacher who penned Ecclesiastes (quoted above), is that time is finite. That truth is applicable to our human life and to our faith. Seasons come and seasons go. In what season are we now? What comes next? What preparations are needed?

On a very tangible level we will be meeting a deadline to provide school supplies for students at Havre de Grace Elementary School. The deadline – and the opportunity to pray over and bless those backpacks filled with supplies – will be in worship **August 13**. The opportunity to pray over and bless fall sports equipment will be in worship **August 20** (though sports practice may well have started earlier). The opportunity to pray over and bless the backpacks of our own scholars will be in worship **August 27**. The opportunity to pray over and bless our Christian educators (teachers and leaders) will be in worship **September 10** – the same day we will welcome back students of all ages to Sunday School!

In the meantime, however, we can relax and enjoy summer by coming to the Annual Ice Cream Social from 2 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, August 19** on the church lawn (or in the Social Room if weather requires it). Also, we can s-t-r-e-t-c-h summer a little bit and come to the Church-wide Picnic at 1 p.m. on **Sunday, September 17** under the American Legion Pavilion!

Read further in this issue of the “Visitor” and watch the worship bulletin and weekly emails for more information about deadlines and opportunities to learn of and serve Christ.

God has a purpose for us in every season. May we lean into God's purpose whatever time it is.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Norman



## Christian Love and Sympathy



Our Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Ruth** who died June 15, 2023. She had been a loyal member of our congregation since 1992, transferring her membership from another church when she and her husband, John, retired to live in Havre de Grace. Ruth was faithful and skilled in Christian education, service, advocacy and generosity. She was not afraid to die but wanted to be useful. Ruth showed a Christlike non-judgmental acceptance of those who were different or had doubts. She was truly "a sermon in shoes!"

May God bless all who mourn.

## Thanksgivings

Our commendations to those young disciples in our congregation who are part of the Havre de Grace High School Marching Band - **Ella, Cameron, Isabella and Carmen**. The band performed three times over the Independence Day week and took First Place in the Havre de Grace Parade.

**Emily** has obtained her Driver's License. Congratulations!

**Church World Service Blanket Sunday Offerings** provided 228,000 kits and blankets in 2022: 45,570 school kits, 7,843 baby kits, 108,390 hygiene kits, 6,605 cleanup buckets and 59,910 blankets! By our generosity we helped families who lost their homes to storms, floods and earthquakes (including in the US) get food and shelter, people struggling with poverty and harsh climates learn sustainable farming and vulnerable children get clean, safe water and nutritious food. Thank you for your generous support.

## God's Newest Gift

**Caroline Elizabeth** was born to Jessica and Bryan at 7:47 p.m. on July 11, 2023 weighing 6 lbs, 4 1/2 oz and measuring 19 inches. **Adalyn** is the proud big sister!

May she grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and her peers!

## Kids' Corner

*Courtesy of teachingexpertise.com*

Fend off summertime boredom with these Christian activities.

- Create encouragement cards with Bible verses for your friends and family.
- Play Bible bingo. Create bingo cards with bible verses or characters.
- Have players race to find and read Bible verses. To make it more challenging, add physical challenges like jumping jacks or push-ups between each verse.
- Play a Bible version of would you rather. The game can be serious or funny.
- Do a Christian word search or crossword puzzle.
- Create a prayer jar. Write down people or things that you want to pray about and put them in the jar.
- Write Bible verses on small pieces of paper, and put them inside balloons before inflating them. Pop the balloons and read the verses inside them. Parents can help with this one!

# In the Good Old Summertime?

*Submitted by Ridge*



I've been reminiscing about my childhood summers – before TV and cell phones and planned activities. My sister and I would be up early and out the door after breakfast, wandering through the neighborhood. We had a field behind our house and another field with two apple trees and two horses! We would hop the fence, run to the trees and climb as high as we could. And we were barefoot all summer as well.

A little farther on was the railroad track – fun to walk. Since we had few trains, the danger was limited. The real enticement was the storm drain next to the track – big enough that we could crawl through without bumping our heads. Usually, the drain was dry, and we avoided it when it was wet. We could crawl for several blocks to the next patch of light. Friends often joined us.

The man next door raised chickens and butchered them according to kosher practice – different from the method used on the farm where my Dad was raised, but still a bloody mess.

In the afternoons, when we were cleaned up, my mother would walk us to the library eight blocks away (shoes required). Every week we could pick out four books! My mother did not learn to drive until we were older, so walking was our means of transportation.

After Mother learned to drive, we took trips to Harpers Ferry and Gettysburg, and to Baltimore to buy clothes for school. Our four cousins often stayed with us, and we would go to Yellow Springs for picnics. The park a block away had activities four hours a day, arts and crafts, softball, badminton and story time – even snacks! What good memories these are!

This good old summertime, though, had a big problem – one I did not notice or understand as a child. There were no faces of color, anywhere – not in the neighborhood, in our schools, library or park. Segregation was the norm. As I learned this fact as a child, and a young person, I knew that this was wrong. My mother made sure we understood this. She was strong in her opinions and annoyed people! So, in college I had the opportunity to participate in sit-ins with students from Morgan State University. As a young mom I helped plan, with a mom of color, a multi-racial Cub Scout Den in our community (Webster Village with kids from Gravel Hill).

Living in a racist world does not make a white person a racist. Knowing that our world is racist and not doing anything about it makes us racist.

## Church Trivia

1. The UMC cannot be sued.  
True or False?
2. Elders hold their membership in the Annual Conference. Where do bishops hold their membership?
  - A. The local church where they were confirmed.
  - B. The Jurisdiction where they are bishops.
  - C. The Annual Conference where they are serving.
  - D. The Council of Bishops.

*Answers on page 10*

## 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.

The Visitor is published monthly by  
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Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

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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 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.



# 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

August 2 Heather Brenda	August 5 Bill	August 10 Eli	August 11 Jerry Pat
August 13 Kay	August 17 Muriel Janyce	August 19 Tom Sandy	August 23 Randolph Caroline
August 28 Peter	August 29 Susan	August 30 Phyllis	

September 1 Annabelle	September 4 Chris	September 7 Maxwell	September 8 Walter
September 13 Patrick Renee	September 15 Aidan	September 16 Trudy	September 17 Harry
September 25 Jennifer	September 30 Harry (Bob)		

## Anniversaries

August 2 Gardner and Pam Dick and Janyce
August 12 Ron and Tricia
August 14 David and Melinda
August 17 Brian and Jenny
August 31 David and Michele



September 4 Jerry and Pat
September 24 Len and Gail Harry and Donna

## 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!

Kim	John	Lynette
Tom	Helga	Shawn
Becky	Tina	David
Alice	Kevin	Joan
Rev. Bryon	Stu	Craig
Jan	Fred	Linda
Sidney	Lowe	Trish
Anna	Richard	Jane
Lori	Marilyn	
Bill	Edna	Charlie
Phil	Gerald	Iris
Zachary	Susie	Jana
Wendy	Rachel	Oliver
Lois	Jack Plowman	Shelby
Claire	Patty	Theo

\*All who are battling COVID-19; an end to racism, persecuted Christians and Jews, crime and disaster victims, families dealing with suicide, first responders, veterans, police, the homeless, peace between nations, folk with addictions, an end to mass shootings, Children of Zion Village.

\*\*Family and friends of David.

## 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 p.m.** 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.

## Trivia Answers

Answer: True. The UMC as a whole does not exist, as a legal entity. Paragraph 141 in **The Book of Discipline** specifies that the UMC has no legal existence as a sue-able entity. It does not, and cannot hold title to property, nor does it have any officer, agent, employee, office, or location. Now, conferences, councils, boards, agencies, local churches and other units bearing the name "United Methodist" *are*, for the most part, legal entities capable of suing and being sued.

Answer: D, the Council of Bishops.

## 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

### AUGUST 2023

### Church Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>2</b> 7 pm Education Team	<b>3</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>4</b> 12 pm NA	<b>5</b> 9 am Wedding Rehearsal 3:30 pm Weekes – Wallace Wedding
<b>6</b> 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>11</b> 10 am Knitting Ministry @ Concord Pt. Coffee 12 pm NA	<b>12</b> 8 am UMMen's Breakfast @ Chesapeake Grill & ZOOM
<b>13</b> Blessing of School Supplies 5 pm Hymn Sing @ Tydings Park 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>14</b> 7pm Trustees	<b>15</b> 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>16</b> Welcome One Shelter 5 pm Missions Team	<b>17</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>18</b> 12 pm NA	<b>19</b> 2-4 pm Ice Cream Social on Church Lawn
<b>20</b> Blessing of Sports Eqt. 9:30 am Walk-Pray-Listen 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>21</b> 7 pm Finance Team	<b>22</b> 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 am Prayer Circle	<b>25</b> 10 am Knitting Ministry @ Concord Pt. Coffee 12 pm NA	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Blessing Backpacks Mission Trip Presentation 6:30 pm BSA-G	<b>28</b> 7 pm Church Council	<b>29</b> 11 am GriefShare 6 pm AA 8 pm NA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10 am Prayer Circle		

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

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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

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**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

