As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD—

Ezekiel 1:28

Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 100:4
I used the scripture below during the Healing service this year to remind us that there is always healing when we have faith with God. We are called to Radical Hospitality. What that means is that we give our best. Not just sometimes but all the time. When we are asked to fix a meal, we share the best recipes and prepare it as if we are expecting the most important guest in our life. If we are asked to assist someone we do so with great joy, not dreading the work that is to come. When we prepare the Church each week we need to do so as if it were a special place, a place where we meet the very best this existence has to offer and there we provide guests with a taste of what heaven will be when we all get there. That is Radical Hospitality. Nothing less than the best!

The other day I had to travel to Richmond for a meeting at the Conference Center. So often I have the opportunity to think about things (Bonnie says that could be trouble) and to spend some time reflecting on things. As we traveled down 95 towards Richmond Bonnie pointed out the Kudzu. Kudzu is that plant that grows beside the roads especially in the South. It originally came from Asia and is used as a way of controlling erosion. In Asia it is often used as a starch. Its flowers are used to make jelly that tastes like grape jelly. Some folks use it to make herbal teas and healing tinctures. It can even be used to make clothing and paper. As an erosion control measure it works extremely well. It fact it works so well that in fact it grew and grew at such an alarming rate that it now covers wide areas throughout the South. It can take over an area in as little as two years and then begins to choke out all the other vegetation and trees. Its only natural enemy are goats and other animals who love its taste. So the next time you are traveling down 95 look for that vine like vegetation that seems to cover everything in its path.

So you know I would not give you a botany lesson on Kudzu without some spiritual motive. Kudzu has many great uses. We humans can do many good things. We can do great things for others out of the goodness of our heart. We can raise money that goes to help worthy causes and feel good about what we have done. Just like Kudzu, we can begin to help folks or reach out to folks in order to do good things and then find that actually what we are doing is choking out their individual gifts and their desires and their hopes and dreams. In fact, Kudzu is a great example of how all too often churches create programs and outreach ministries for good, only to find that they are choking out the real message of God which is love and grace. Kudzu can be the vehicle by which sin begins to seep into our consciousness without us realizing it and before we know it, we have moved from good people to arrogant folks who think they have all the answers to everyone else’s life’s problems. We can if we are not careful begin to think we alone know the message of scripture and the way to be a “good” Christian. Radical Hospitality means that we give the best of ourselves to folks where they need us most. Radical Hospitality means that we share the “Good News” of the Gospel in an effort to bring God’s love to others. John the Baptist loved to preach a message of repentance as he baptized those who came down to the Jordan River. But he was quick to say that it was not about what he was doing, but what God was doing through him and that one would come greater than him. One he called the Lamb of God.

My peers who have been to Korea report that they are amazed at the number of people who come to Morning Prayer. They are amazed at the number of people who volunteer within the church to clean windows, place fresh flowers every day or so, keep entranceways clear for those who truly need it and many other needs that tell the outside world how much they care about the image of God their church portrays. They feed the hungry and clothe the cold. We are doing good things at Sydenstricker. But let us focus on the message of God’s love lest we become Kudzu to the community we want to reach. I want to lift in praise all we are doing. But I would be remiss if I did not point out that there is more to do.

Shalom!

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**James 5:13** Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.
**Did You Know?**

We traditionally celebrate the first Thanksgiving as having taken place at Plymouth Rock by the Pilgrims. But two years before the Pilgrims on December 4, 1619, a group of 38 English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation in what is now Charles City, Virginia. The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving to God. Captain John Woodleaf held the service of thanksgiving. Here is the section of the Charter of Berkley Plantation which specifies the thanksgiving service: “Wee ordaine that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for planacon in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.”

So now you know. The site of the first Thanksgiving is still open to the public today on Route 5 on the path to Richmond from Williamsburg.

**I Give Thanks!**

We begin the season of Thanksgiving with joy and celebration. And yet at this time of year, we often forget what we should be thankful for. Have you made a Christmas list yet of the expected or hoped for presents that you would like to receive? What about a new list of things that have occurred this year that we are thankful for? Psalm 118:21 says simply, “I thank you that you have answered me and you are my salvation.” How often do we account for the many blessings in our lives? We focus instead on our ailments, our troubles and possibly our worries. But we are commanded by God to be thankful for the many blessings we receive every day. I would like for you to sit down and make a list of blessings since last Thanksgiving. I do not care if you share your list with others, simply commit to making a list. Start it today and add to it each time you think of something between now and the Sunday before Thanksgiving. You may be joyously surprised at all that has been happening in your life.

Shalom!
**November Happenings**

**INOVA Blood Donor Services Needs YOU!**

The INOVA Bloodmobile will be here on November 18... please sign up!

We have fewer slots due to the congregational meeting after church, so we need to be sure to have a full schedule with a few extra people, in case there are deferrals, illnesses, etc. Please sign up with Ron in the narthex, or on-line at [inova.org/donateblood](http://inova.org/donateblood). Click on Donate Blood two times and then enter the sponsor code 0384.

*Questions? Call Blanche at 703-866-9307*

---

**Loving Hearts Needed to Fill Thanksgiving Baskets**

**THERE ARE EIGHT BASKETS TO FILL**

If you can help, please sign up and pick up a list on the table outside of Hottle Hall.

Buy as much as you can. If you can provide a whole basket, please let us know. Food items can be dropped off in the Lorton bin outside of Hottle Hall. Please give gift cards directly to Jennifer Riordan or Robbin Arnold.

**Deadline to drop off items is November 18!**

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**NLI Next Steps**

Bring your thoughts and questions about the NLI weekend and recommended innovations to one of our upcoming special town hall meetings:

- Thursday, November 1, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 8, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 11 at 9:45 a.m.

**VOTE ON OUR FUTURE ON NOVEMBER 18!**

Members will vote to accept or reject the recommendations.

---

**Warm Coat Drive**

The drive is already underway!

We need coats for children and adults, along with gloves, scarves, and new hats (lightly warn hats can be accepted, if they are well washed). Items will be shared with Rising Hope UMC, ECHO, and New Hope Housing.

Items can be placed in or next to the Lorton bin, outside Hottle Hall. Please label bags “LORTON”. Thank you!

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**Thanksgiving Means Caring AND PIES!**

The youth would like to add some cheer to your holiday with homemade pies!

Choose from apple, pumpkin, cherry, or peanut butter and chocolate

OR special order your own favorite flavor

- 9” apple, pumpkin or cherry $15
- 9” peanut butter and chocolate $17
- 9” special order flavors $17
- Tarts, all flavors $10

To order, visit the Youth page at [sydenstrickerumc.org](http://sydenstrickerumc.org) or contact Brianna, Director of Youth at brianna.ornstein@sydenstrickerumc.org

*Deadline to special order is October 31*

**Deadline to order regular flavors is November 11**

Pick up after the 11:00 service on November 18

There will be a few extra on the 18th, so stop by if you didn’t have a chance to order one!

**Proceeds will be used to help fund youth summer missions.**

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---

Lots of treasures to be found at the UMW Holiday Bazaar!
BURKE
INTERFAITH
THANKSGIVING
SERVICE
NOV 20 2018
7:30PM
BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | BURKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | CONGREGATION ADAT REYIM | DURGA TEMPLE | EZHER
BLOOM MOSQUE | ST. MARY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH | ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH | SYDENSTRICKER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

BURKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6200 BURKE CENTRE PKWY
BURKE, VA 22015
Children and Family Ministry

Elementary Sunday School Play- “Mr. Lemoncello’s Library”

This play was written, and all decorations were done by, the Sunday School classes. A copy of the script can be found on the Children's Ministry web page for anyone who missed it!

Children’s Thankful Prayer-

Give Thanks
for each new morning
with its light
for rest and shelter
of the night
for health and food
for friends and love
for everything
thy goodness sends

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Youth Ministry

It was such a joy to have our Youth lead us in worship on October 14. We are so blessed to have such talented and enthusiastic young people!

All smiles at work at LCAC!
THE YOUTH ARE MAKING PIES!

Type of Pies Available
* Apple  * Pumpkin  * Cherry  * Peanut butter w/chocolate
* OR let us know your favorite flavor by October 31, and we will make it as a special order!

Prices
9” Apple, Pumpkin, or Cherry - $15
9” Peanut butter with chocolate - $17
9” Special order flavor - $17
Tarts/personal pies - $10

- All orders must be received by November 11 (special orders by October 31)
- Pick up on November 18, after the 11:00 service
- Sign up on the church web site or by contacting the Director of Youth at Brianna.ornstein@sydenstrickerumc.org
- There will be a limited supply of extra pies on the 18th for those who forgot to order!
- Proceeds will go to help support youth summer missions!
Preparing for Advent  
**Saturday, December 8 at 5:30 service** - Special Choral Music by TRE Voci

**Sunday, December 9** - Chancel Choir’s *Carols and Lullabies*, and W.O.W. ’s Musical

“What shall we give to the beautiful infant? Raisins and figs and walnuts and olives, and honey and farmers’ cheese. Even if the figs are green, they’ll ripen. If they don’t ripen on Palm Sunday they’ll ripen on Easter.” --from *Carols and Lullabies* by Conrad Susa

The Chancel Choir is preparing a special Christmas piece, *Carols and Lullabies* (Christmas in the Southwest) by Conrad Susa. Susa is an American composer who teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and composes opera and scores for theater and film. The cantata is a collection of carols that highlights the story of Mary and Joseph’s journey as well as manger scenes, the ringing of bells at the birth of the baby, the idea of blossoming spring in the winter, and several lullabies. The Southwest, Spanish and Mexican carols, accompanied by harp, guitar and xylophone, present a delightful and unique story tradition.

On Saturday, December 8, the trio, **TRE Voci**, will present multiple selections of traditional and newer vocal music as a time to enjoy the music of the season.

Now is the time to join choir! Anyone wishing to sing with us during Advent or Christmas, please contact Evanne Browne, our Director of Musical Ministries. We’ll rehearse for Christmas each Thursday between now and December. Tell your friends and family to join us on December 8 or 9th!

Music Ministry

Celebrating the Music of Dick Meares

On **November 11**, the Chancel Choir and a quartet will be presenting three pieces of music composed by Dick Meares, the father of choir member Randi Meares Brodmann. To celebrate his life (he passed away earlier this year), Randi is gifting three of Meares’ compositions (meaning, she has had them professionally transcribed from their original hand-writing into musical notation) to Sydenstricker’s music library.

Dick Meares was a prodigy who learned piano before entering elementary school, and who, by the age of eight, was performing for the NBM children’s radio show *Coast to Coast on a Bus*. After studying at the Manhattan School of Music, he played piano for jazz greats Shep Fields and Larry Clinton. He soon formed his own 16-piece orchestra and played the NYC Broadway Ballroom Circuit. By the 1950s Meares was pianist for band leader Eddy Duchin, filling in when Duchin became sick with leukemia. After Duchin’s death, Meares went on to work for NBC writing jingles and playing piano for many variety shows of the early 1960s. He also formed the Dick Style (Meares) Trio, producing records under his own record studio/label, *Radar Records*.

Meares, a lifelong Methodist, joined the Union United Methodist Church, East Northport, NY, and remained the music director at the church for almost 60 years. During that time he composed a trove of sacred music for his choir but never had any of it published. His daughter, Randi Meares Brodmann, is bringing some of his compositions to Sydenstricker Methodist for all to enjoy. All of Dick’s music that the choir performs will be given to the Sydenstricker music library.
In the early 1980’s, Sydenstricker United Methodist Church started making sandwiches for Martha’s Table, a charitable organization located in Washington DC that, among other activities, helps feed the homeless of the area. In October, we prepared 4,355 sandwiches, putting our total for the year at 47,888. With two months left, we are well on our way to surpassing our 2017 total of 52,224. But, to make sure that happens, we need resources and helping hands!

We want to thank all of the people who faithfully donate already and the 45 to 60 people who show up on the first Wednesday of each month to build the sandwiches. We often have the help of the TOT preschoolers and teachers as well as people from other churches and from the community, including Boy Scout Troops, senior living communities and people who hear about our mission project from various advertising sources. All are welcome at our next event on Wednesday, November 7, at 9:00 a.m. in Hottle Hall.

Hope & Healing for Transcending Loss: Daily Meditations for Those Who Are Grieving by Ashley Bush (155.9 BUS)

When we lose someone close, it’s easy to feel unmoored. This book offers you day-by-day small doses of comfort and hope for getting through your day when you are still heavy with grief. Each bite-sized reading offers reassurance that healing is possible, whether it’s an ordinary day of living with loss or a special anniversary day. Poetic words help provide solace along with the perspective that love always transcends even the deepest loss.

Empty Arms: Coping with Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Early Infant Death by Sherokee Ilse (155.937 ILS)

This book is a comprehensive, concise, and calming guide; the first written material a newly bereaved parent should turn to. Unique and encouraging, it reaches out to all who have been touched by stillbirth/infant death or miscarriage. Whether the loss is recent or occurred years ago, Empty Arms offers comfort and hope to the bereaved and their support network.

On Death and Dying: What the Dying Have to Teach Doctors, Nurses, Clergy and Their Own Families by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (155.9 KUB)

One of the most important psychological studies of the late twentieth century, On Death and Dying grew out of Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross’s famous interdisciplinary seminar on death, life, and transition. In this remarkable book, Dr. Kübler-Ross first explored the now-famous five stages of death: denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Through sample interviews and conversations, she gives readers a better understanding of how imminent death affects the patient, the professionals who serve that patient, and the patient's family, bringing hope to all who are involved.

On Grief and Grieving: Finding the Meaning of Grief through the Five Stages of Loss by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (155.93 KUB)

Shortly before her death in 2004, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler, her collaborator, completed the manuscript for this, her final book. On Grief and Grieving is a fitting completion to her work. Thirty-six years and sixteen books ago, Kübler-Ross’s groundbreaking On Death and Dying changed the way we talk about the end of life. Now On Grief and Grieving will profoundly influence the way we experience the process of grief.
UMW News

A Run Down Of What’s Coming Up!

* Thursday, November 1 Setup for Fall Bazaar noon to 7:00 p.m.
* Friday, November 2 Setup for Fall Bazaar 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
* Saturday, November 3 Fall Bazaar 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
* Tuesday, November 6 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00-9:00 p.m.
* Wednesday, November 7 Full Board Meeting cancelled
* Wednesday, November 7 Small Board Meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer 7:15 p.m.
* Saturday, November 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. to noon in the Church Library
* Saturday, November 17 General Meeting noon to 2:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall
* Saturday, November 24 Hanging of the Greens Dinner – food set up and cleanup (kitchen)
* Saturday, December 2 UMW Christmas Party 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Hottle Hall (details to come after the Bazaar)
* Saturday, December 8 Donuts with Santa 10:00 a.m. to noon in Hottle Hall

Holiday Bazaar November 3!

We will need help all day from set up and to take down and will have the day divided into 2-hour shifts. You are welcome to work multiple shifts, or all day, if you are able. Each section has their own set of volunteers. You may be asked to change where you volunteer if we find one group needs more help.

- Donation drop off for rummage sale and bake sale
  **Thursday, November 1, from noon to 7:00 p.m.**
- Donation drop off for rummage sale, bake sale and soup
  **Friday, November 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

If you wish to donate items, please contact:

- **Soup**: Michaela Duty  [michaela.t.sharp@gmail.com](mailto:michaela.t.sharp@gmail.com)
- **Bake Sale**: Judy Bennett  [lucybowby@verizon.net](mailto:lucybowby@verizon.net)
- **Rummage Sale**: Carla Mitchell  [plfd1221@gmail.com](mailto:plfd1221@gmail.com)

The Holiday Bazaar is a fundraiser. All of the profit is distributed to various organizations. Last year, the UMW group voted on the distribution of funds. This is the breakdown of who received money last year after the Bazaar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UMCOR Puerto Rico</td>
<td>$2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wesley Community Service Center</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Fork Service Center</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>All God’s Children Camp</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Rainbow Connection</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Highroad</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agape Children’s Center</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydenstricker Kitchen Fund</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Inside</td>
<td>$300</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Hanging of the Greens November 24
We have been asked to help with the Hanging of the Greens Dinner. We will set the tables and food areas. After dinner we will clean tables and the kitchen. Thank you to the crew who cleaned up after the Barbecue Bash in September. This is a great way to get to know people better. We will need people to be in charge of the group setting up and cleaning up. Do not feel obligated to clean every time.

Potluck November 17
The potluck will start at noon, after the Prayer Shawl Meeting, so that the members from that Ministry can come and join the larger group. We will begin with a Candle Burning. Donations are given to Pledge to Mission and a candle is burned in honor or memory of individuals named (look for more information in TWAS). We then will start the process of setting up the Interest Groups, as there are a few volunteers eager to begin their group.

We also will vote on the distribution of profits of the Bazaar. You can take part in this as a member of the group. To be considered a member, you can volunteer for the Holiday Bazaar, and/or participate in Prayer Shawl Ministry, and/or have completed a membership card. Membership cards can be signed on November 17.

Donuts with Santa December 8
We are financially supporting this event along with some church budgeted money. We also have been asked to help run the event. There will be Santa, story time, entertainment and stations for games and other activities. This is where we come in. We will help run the stations and anything else that is needed. If you enjoy children, this is your time to volunteer. If you are a mother with elementary age or younger children, come and enjoy the event with your children. This will be a fun event or you will remember how much your child didn’t want to be there. Either way you are creating memories.
**Women’s Survey**

United Methodist Women would like more women to be able to participate in the group. We have come up with various ideas for people to get together to have fun/learn while doing something that they are interested in. We hope you find one or more groups that pique your interest. Circle the number(s) that you are interested in. At the bottom, write your contact information and your availability. Please place it in the offering plate or return it to UMW president Donna Kellum directly or via the UMW mailbox in the church closet.

1. Evening Out – eating out or in homes to get to know one another
2. Dramatic Reading – reading the bible dramatically*
3. Advocacy for Women, Children, and Youth – engaging with community leaders and/or politicians on women’s, children’s and youth issues, using program book and other UMW resources
4. Women of the Bible – studying how different women of the bible are portrayed and served God
5. UMW Reading Program – using books from the reading program*
6. Mission Activities – learning about and possibly participating in local and global missions
7. Family Ties – planning and executing events involving families, and/or women and children; Sonya Miller is the contact person at sonyasimpson2@gmail.com*
8. Fund our Ministries – planning for Holiday Bazaar and Shopping at Sydenstricker*; Carla Mitchell is the contact person at plfd1221@gmail.com*
9. Prayer Shawl – crocheting/knitting shawls and other items for gifts of Christian caring*
10. Speakers and events – planning and coordinating speakers and events (ex. Christmas Party) for General Meetings, Denise Osborn is the contact person at makerofminis@gmail.com*
11. Travel Team – going to local District or wider UMW Virginia events
12. Kitchen Crew – cleaning kitchen, handling setup and cleanup after church-wide functions and funerals; a large group will give the flexibility for people to volunteer on a rotating basis.
13. Exploring History and Creativity – visiting museums or craft fairs as a group
14. Expressions of God’s Love – corresponding with notes of encouragement to people in the mission field and on the church prayer list and prayer chain

*Denotes events currently forming or already established

You can contact points of contact directly, or UMW President Donna Kellum, can pass your information on to them. We will start a group if there is enough interest. Either way, Donna will be in touch with you after November 17.

Name

email:

Phone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>Daytime</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
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TOT advertises as being "a place where staff take extra pride in their ability to address the varied needs of students and families". Families have indicated that they chose to enroll at TOT and to participate in SUMC's programs due to the care and effort made to anticipate and cater to needs within the family. This month, I wanted to highlight the diversity amongst TOT families in order to help others recognize what the church brings to the community as a result of welcoming various types of individuals to SUMC's "family of faith" via TOT Preschool.

The Diverse Needs of Families Served by TOT and SUMC

Cultural Diversity
Of our approximately 70 children each year:

- 50-75% of TOT families have someone serving in the military
- 20-30% speak a language other than English in the home
- 10-20 different countries of origin are represented among students
- 10-15% of TOT families need some type of financial assistance to help with tuition costs

Allergies, Developmental Issues and Medical Complexities
Each year, families come to TOT looking for a "new" option due to having a child labeled as "a behavior problem" or recognizing another program’s limited ability to address safety or environmental concerns related to life-threatening allergies or medical diagnoses.

Geographic Diversity
In the past, most of TOT's students lived within the boundaries of Orange Hunt, Hunt Valley or Sangster Elementary Schools. This year, TOT students feed into 14 different elementary schools. Many more families that live south of Fairfax County Parkway are coming to TOT due to there not being any near by, part time, religious preschools with reasonable tuition rates.
When a prospective family visits our preschool, effort is taken to identify family needs and goals for children once enrolled at TOT. In general, an hour or two is taken with each family to give an overview of the preschool, assess needs and provide guidance. The following are the top issues identified as factors impacting the choice of whether to enroll in a preschool and how TOT/SUMC responds with radical hospitality in order to make choosing and attending a preschool less stressful for children and families.

### Examples of TOT and SUMC's Radical Hospitality at TOT and SUMC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>How Issue is Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location &amp; Cost</strong></td>
<td>Targeted marketing has been increased to increase family awareness of TOT and SUMC. Annual research is done to keep TOT tuition rates at or slightly below market average and $5000 per year has been designated annually for scholarships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religious Content &amp; Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Last year a family expressed surprise that 3 of 4 religious schools visited did not offer “chapel time.” Families have also highlighted desire for children to participate in Mission and other “Christian” activities. Children attend chapel twice per month, pray at least once each class, and learn and perform a “Christmas Program” for families in December. PreK classes help make sandwiches with Martha’s Table volunteers. Children’s ministry volunteers have opened the nursery so caregivers can drop off young children and also participate in “Martha’s Table.” Collections of food and clothing are set up within the school to benefit local shelters and programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Diversity</strong></td>
<td>Teachers research the many cultures and languages of TOT families and adjust accordingly. Currently, a teacher has added a &quot;Spanish word of the day&quot; due to having a third of the families speaking Spanish in the home. At the behest of families, a fall session of German Enrichment Mondays (GEM) has been offered and 12 students enrolled. Families are encouraged to bring cultural foods to share at church activities and an International Day activity is being planned.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Allergies and Medical Issues</strong></td>
<td>An “Allergy Sensitive” policy has been adopted to address a wide range of allergies versus just allergies to peanuts and tree-nuts. When there was a child with Celiacs Disease attending, TOT became a gluten free school. When a child presented with a sesame allergy, care was taken to call each manufacturer to identify possible issues. All staff are CPR/First Aid and MAT certified to address issues versus the minimum required number of staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developmental Issues/ Red Flags</strong></td>
<td>TOT staff are cautious not to jump to conclusions when disruptive behaviors are observed. Any time developmental red flags are present, staff work diligently to help caregivers learn how to advocate for their children with FCPS, physicians and other child care professionals. If needs are identified, staff welcome resource teachers, speech language pathologists and OTs to come to TOT to observe and work with a child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Varying Schedules</strong></td>
<td>Over the years, TOT has added hours, adjusted class sizes and days offered, offered additional scholarships, and added enrichment classes to accommodate changing family needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Missions Roll-Up

Where We Were the Hands and Feet of Christ in October:

- Sent care packages to service members and civilians deployed around the world
- Made 4,355 sandwiches for Martha’s Table (47,888 for the year)
- Collected coats and other warm clothing for LCAC
- 1000+ pounds of food to LCAC
- Prayer Shawl Ministry knitted wool shawls to warm and comfort those with physical, mental, or spiritual needs
- Gave to World Communion Day, providing scholarship for racial and ethnic minority students at both the undergraduate and graduate level
- Supported the CROP Walk Fundraiser, through eating at Glory Days

Where We Will Serve Next:

- Wednesday, November 7 - Martha’s Table
- Warm Coat Drive continues for LCAC and Rising Hope
- Thanksgiving Baskets for LCAC
- UMW Used Stamp Collection
- Tuesday, November 6 and Saturday, November 17 - Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Sunday, November 25 - All Saints Weekend designated offering to fund scholarships and loans for students attending UM related and other accredited colleges and universities
- Western State Hospital Care-A-Van gift drive
- Sunday, November 18 - CROP Hunger Walk
- Sunday, November 18 – Blood Drive
Advent will be here before we know it, and there will be many opportunities to connect through worship, study, fellowship, and fun!

**LOOKING FORWARD**

**DONUTS WITH SANTA!**

- Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Photos with Santa!
- Temporary tattoos!
- Ornament making!
- Cookie decorating (and eating)!

Can you help? Sign up at sydenstrckerumc.org

**It’s time to think Christmas!!**

Christmas is on its way and will be here before we know it. As you plan for the holidays, think how you can help decorate the church with poinsettias and Christmas Cactus for this Christmas season. Flowers will be placed in the Sanctuary December 8th and may be taken home after Christmas Eve.

A dedication in memory of and/or in honor of someone may be included.

All names will be recognized in the church bulletin Christmas Eve.

Order forms will be located in the narthex. Simply fill out a form and put a check in either the box with the forms or in the collection with “Christmas flowers” on the “for” line.

All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, November 25, 2018.

Dear friends our Advent study booklet for this year will be Prepare Him Room by Robert Martin Walker, an ordained Methodist Minister who has written many other booklets for Advent and Lent. Rev. Walker writes, “we can discover Christ in the mundane, everyday routines of living, we also encounter Christ in the extremes of life—birth and death, agony and ecstasy, tragedy and triumph. These extremes can be thought of as an edge at the outer limits of life. Meeting Christ at these edges can be a powerful, transforming experience. During the four weeks of Advent we will look at promise and fulfillment, despair and hope, sadness and joy and death and birth. We hope you can join us. We will be meeting in pastor Don’s office on Wednesdays starting at 7 p.m. on November 28th. Hope you can join us for this four-week Advent study led by Gordon Sparlin. Gordon will work to get you a book by Thanksgiving if you sign up by the 8th of November. If you can’t meet that deadline feel free to procure your book from Amazon or anywhere you can find a copy.
Western State Hospital Mission

For over 30 years we have been giving a Christmas Gift to the patients at Western State Hospital, located in Staunton, Virginia. The hospital services the Northern Virginia Area’s needs as many of the patients are from our area. The hospital staff and patients thank us for our generosity and expression of God’s Love. The book stand on the podium in Hottle Hall and the art work on the wall outside of Hottle Hall are examples of their love returned.

Some children are homeless and many live in crowded homes consisting of large multi families. Miriam Camacho, a church member, taught school there for many years and after retiring she substituted at the school. As such we decided to honor her and named this project “Miriam Camacho School Outreach.” We began by contributing 5 complete Thanksgiving meals in 2014 (turkey or ham dinners with all the trimmings and dessert.) For Christmas and the two-week break, we provided food contributions consisting of cereals, rice, pasta, canned meat, peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruit, bread and a ham for each of 10 families.

Today, we are providing food for 45-50 families at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have established the Camacho Reading Garden used by the teaching staff during the school year and provide school supplies.

The generosity of Sydenstricker and our Sydenstricker Spirit provides for the needs of many. As we all know, hunger and the need for basic comforts like a warm coat, shoes, hats and gloves is not restricted to holiday seasons. Therefore, we stay connected with our social services contact at Crestwood to learn about new opportunities whereby we can extend the love of Jesus Christ to these children. This year we are supporting the Library with needed books.

If you care to support this mission, consider a donation, in any amount, and/or purchasing a book for the library. The book sign up is outside Hottle Hall. Thank you for your loving support.

Crestwood Elementary Outreach

In 2014, the Missions Committee increased its outreach to needy children and families in the local area. Crestwood Elementary, which is situated in the heart of “old” Springfield, was chosen based on its need. Surprisingly in neighborhoods that were one time home to upper middle-class families the demographics have changed to the point where 80% of the children receive two meals each school day and 90% receive at least one meal a day at the school.

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Be sure that your gift tag includes the Patient’s Name and Number and the Ward Number. We will place a collection box in the Narthex by Nov 24th.

We will Care-A-Van to Western State Hospital on Dec 14th. The trip will include a tour of the hospital facilities. Please join us by signing up outside Hottle Hall. We will stop and have lunch at Mrs. Rowes. Additionally, we continue to collect gently used jeans for their clients. If you have any that you would like to donate, please place them in the designated hamper outside Hottle Hall.

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Looking Forward continued from page 17

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Your UMM will begin selling Christmas Trees on Saturday, Nov 24th. 5-6 foot trees are $55.00 and 7-8 foot trees are $65.00. Profit from the sale will be used for the various ministries supported by the UMM.

We ask that you purchase your tree at the church and that you donate some of your time assisting us sell the trees. Be sure to sign up. Make it a family event—just 3 hours of your time.

God bless.

If you have any questions, contact Gene Russell at enrussell@msn.com or 703-220-5322
Looking Forward continued from page 19

Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, November 24
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Decorating the church
5:30 p.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Inclement Weather Policy
The church office and usage of the church for activities follows the Fairfax County Public School system closings or delayed openings for all church activities & all non-church activities - weekdays as well as weekends. That means use by any church committee meeting or paid use of the facility by a group. Listen to the main church telephone greeting (703-451-8223) or consult our Facebook page or website for information on cancellations. This is especially important on the weekends. Announcement will also scroll on channels WJLA-TV (ABC 7), FOX 5 and WUSA (CBS-9).

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

VICHOP Champion Needed!
SUMC supports Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Programs in February (VICHOP) and hosts VICHOP guests in March. We are in need of someone who can be the point person to organize these efforts. If you can’t participate on site during these two events, this is a great way to still help with this important ministry by making phone calls, getting the word out, and helping to make sure that volunteers are in place.
If you can help, contact Tim Mertsoctjmertymert@gmail.com

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It was a beautiful day to bless the animals!

Sydenstricker Snaps!

The TOT preschoolers have been busy!

Fire Safety Day!

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!”
Happy Anniversary!

Jane and Rob Schaefer

Silvia and Curt Nutbrown

Eve and Dave Nefzger

What a blessing it was to gather for NLI weekend and spend time in discernment of where God is leading SUMC
In the Life of our Church Family…

**November Birthdays**

11/01 Kevin Ritter, Jon Lei
11/04 Phil Royce
11/05 Jane Tiffany
11/06 Konjt Asrat
11/07 Emma Hurst, Charles Buettner, Jenny Tison
11/08 Robert Dannemiller, Abigail Shirzadi, Sonja Miller
11/09 Denise Osborn, Natalie Shirzadi
11/10 Yvonne Sabin, Elias Marko
11/11 David Grobe, Sarah Wisdom
11/12 Serenity Dooley, Laura Bell
11/13 Nathan McCarry
11/14 Gavin Tringale, David Thibodeau
11/15 Terry Cole, Alex (Dawn) Kupski
11/16 Lauren Khair, Kathleen Barth
11/18 Chase Allen
11/19 Ben Rudisin, Mary Kleppinger
11/20 David Stelter
11/21 Katrina Finch, Betty Lou Kidwell, Silvia Nutbrown, Ryan Magusiak, Leandra Darden, Bonnie Burkhardt
11/22 Scottie Patterson
11/23 Bruce Schoemer
11/24 Eric Points, Lauren Bonner
11/26 Frank Frittman
11/27 Adam Irvine
11/28 James Morrow
11/29 Jan Ritenour
11/30 Ingrid Sands, Marisol Reynoso

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**In Sympathy**

The Sydenstricker family extends our loving sympathy to Eric Kleppinger on the death of his mother Sandra Stoddard and to Christine Sands on the death of her grandmother, Hildegard Krause Faustmann.

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**New Members!**

Welcome to Clark and Christina Heidelbaugh and Ray and Susan Obertone. We are so glad that you are a part of the Sydenstricker family!

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My personal thanks this month to choir and church members who gave a lovely post-wedding reception for me and my new husband, John Butterfield. Thanks also to Don Dosch, Blanche Powell and Brianna Ornstein who conducted the choir rehearsals and the choir in worship while I was with family. John also appreciates his warm welcome as an occasional choir member, and, most recently, as the BBQ chicken chef for our community picnic. We are so appreciative of the warmth and welcome that the church has extended to us for the last year and as we start our wedded life.

Evanne Browne
A beautiful thank you from Daisy Troop 52038!

Don’t forget to set your clocks back on Sunday, November 4. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

Like us on facebook at facebook.com/SydenstrickerUMC