



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

John 3:8 states, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

In Wild Goose Chase, the author, Mark Batterson shares a story titled "The Madonna of the Future." In the story, an artist devotes her entire life to a single painting. But when the artist dies, it is discovered that her canvas is still blank. She never finished because she never started. My question for you today: what is your unpainted canvas or unwritten book? What God-given dream is collecting dust? What God-sized vision remains unfulfilled?

I don't know your God-sized vision. But what I do know is that you'll never finish what you do not start. God has a plan and a design for your life. Pursue your God-given hopes and dreams as though these were the last days of your life.

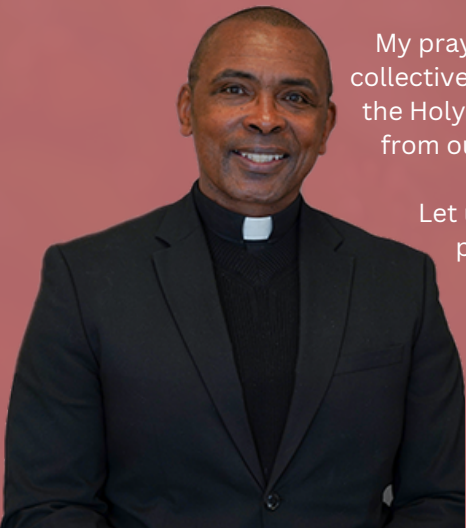
Here at Friendship United Methodist Church, our God-sized vision is to Love All, Serve All, and Follow One. Continue what you've started, church family, and never grow weary in your well-doing.

In today's text, Jesus' explains the unpredictable nature of the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus. At the same time, Jesus gives him and us a sense of urgency. As persons born of the Spirit, we must take advantage of our God-given opportunities to fulfill our purpose while we still have a chance.

My prayer is that this year will be our best year, individually and collectively. However, in order to do so, we must be willing to be led by the Holy Spirit. Then, and only then, will we be able to hear the words from our Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Let us pray: Lord, in 2024, help us to fulfill our God-sized vision, purpose and dreams in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rudy



FRIENDSHIP HOUR



Friendship Hour needs volunteers! There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

We need at least three people to sign up for each month!

Contact Sue Riley at 301-535-3995 or susaneriley@comcast.net with questions or want to sign up.

Thank you for your help!

WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women In Faith participates in a variety of activities, supporting mission projects in the community, the nation, and the world, and the members have a great deal of fun and fellowship.

The primary activity of WIF is mission work, with a special emphasis on women's and children's needs. The WIF holds fundraisers and uses the money collected to support mission projects. Some are supported directly, while others are funded through the Friendship WIF's yearly pledge and financial commitment to the district and conference WIF.

WIF also provides an opportunity for personal growth and fellowship. Monthly meetings include various activities and outings -- some for specific mission projects and some just for fun. Programs might feature a member or guest speaker sharing topics ranging from scripture passages to issues of interest to women. From mission outreach programs to shut-ins, Care Baskets for church members with health issues, the Prayer Shawl Program, and support of local families in need to ladies' nights out, pottery painting, or just gathering for fellowship, the opportunities to have fun and get to know other women at FUMC abound.

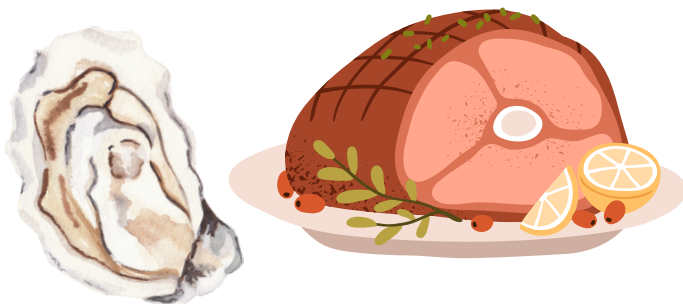


HAM & OYSTER DINNER

God Bless each and everyone of you ... for hard work, support, coaching, fellowship, baking, and just everything you did to make the Ham & Oyster Dinner such a success. Kudos to Janey, Sarah & Wendy for co-chairing the event. Our kitchen renovations were finally put to the "ultimate" test, and, other than a few tweaks to the ovens, they appeared to be on target and met our needs.

We sold about 120 carryout dinners and had at least 100 walk-in diners. Our MYF did an amazing job serving our patrons, and some even tasted an oyster for the first time! The Veterans appreciated the beautiful cookies, and most everyone enjoyed something sweet after (or before) their meal. The Pie Table sold over \$500 on Saturday, and Sunday sales of leftovers totaled over \$900.

I feel truly blessed to be a part of FUMC!



SENIOR LUNCHEON - OCT 25TH



On October 25, 2023, we resumed our senior luncheon. We were fortunate to have such beautiful weather that day and we had a fantastic crowd. We had approximately 40 people in attendance. We had a variety of sandwiches, side dishes and delicious desserts. There were a few puzzles origamis (optional) to help challenge the mind, but there was definitely an abundance of great conversation. A good time was had by all. Hope you will join us at the future Senior Luncheon.

SENIOR LUNCHEON - DEC 2ND



Our Seniors met for a luncheon and program on Saturday, December 2, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall (hosted by Lori Grierson and friends). There was a spectacular turnout with approximately 46 attendees.

Everyone dined on pasta with red sauce and meatballs or a white sauce with chicken, bread, and desserts, which was a huge hit! Everyone channeled their inner artist by painting a reindeer picture that Kaitlyn and Harley taught, and the seniors absolutely loved it. We are looking forward to our future Senior Luncheons.

POINSETTIAS AND SCAN

The poinsettias that decorate our church and donations to South County Assistance Network (SCAN) were given by the following.

Ronny, Leisha, Renee, Paula and Jamie Cranford in memory of Jerome and Sarah Stallings and all other Family Members

Scott and Bonnie Dean and Family in memory of Elsie Ford Owen
The Eversfield Family in honor of John and Peggy Wilkerson

Lisa Gottwals in memory of Harry C. Gottwals, Sr.
Laura Kratz in honor of her Children and Grandchildren
and in memory of Michael



Marge Lewis in honor of her Family and in memory of Lew Meredith and Susan Page in memory of Loved Ones

Bonnie Revell in memory of Billy Revell

Anne Stewart in memory of Don and her Sister, Mary Meyers
and her Brother, Phil Ross

Rob and Cyndie Sybert in memory of our Daughter, Jennifer and our Parents

Linda Thompson in honor of Bee Hobbs, my faithful and forever friend.

in loving memory of my Husband, Carl and loved ones

Donald and Shirley W. Trott in memory of Herbert and Hattie Wood
Ginger and Mike Walls in honor of Anne Stewart and
in memory of Don Stewart and Howard and Pat Walls

Gary and Wendy Ward in memory of loved ones
John and Peggy Wilkerson in honor of their Children, Grandchildren
and Great-Grandchildren



Kitty Beck Wilson and Family in loving memory of Bob Wilson

Martha Wooldridge in memory of loved ones

Missy Zentz in memory of Betty Cook

Thanks to everyone who contributed with their time, talent and donations to making the church so beautiful this Christmas. In addition, thank you for helping with the hanging of the greens, poinsettias and/ or donations to SCAN.

A total of \$100 was donated to SCAN.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING



A BIG thank you to all the people who showed up to remove decorations from the church on January 4th and 5th.

A total of 18 "friends" appeared. We started at 10 a.m. on the 5th, and at 10:55, everything was down, packed in boxes, and stored in the closet until next year. A true example that many hands make light and quick the work.

Thanks again. Marge Lewis

CEMETARY COMITTEE

Please consider joining Terry Myers and Karen Boyd on the Cemetary Committee. We need a group of FUMC members who can help determine how to manage and maintain the cemetery in the future. We have a grid layout of the cemetery and existing graves, but we would like to tackle additional projects.

*Join
US!*

- Verify who currently owns each plot and whether they are outstanding fees or account balances due
- Confirm how many gravesites are still available within each plot
- Upload photos and information into find.a.grave.com
- Learn how to verify open gravesites for Funeral Homes and family members to help confirm the internment of coffins or urns
- Consider future plans for a Columbarium, which would allow us to address the waitlist and other future burials
- Help decide which headstones or monuments need repairs and start a maintenance and cleaning program or existing headstones

Please contact Karen Boyd at 202-253-7891 or karend.boyd@verizon.net if you are interested in serving on the Cemetary Committee.

CARING MINISTRY

The Caring Committee is looking for volunteers to join team of volunteers.

The Caring Ministry at FUMC is over 100 years old. We visit and deliver care baskets to our members who have been ill for an extended period of time, have been hospitalized, had surgery, were in an accident, or have welcomed a new baby.

There may be other occasions when we care for members, such as sending cards.

We are funded by the Women in Faith Ministry. Looking to serve the lord? To learn more, call Kitty Beck Wilson 443-975-1033. We'd love to have you be a part of our team!



YOUTH GROUP

Recently, Youth Group has been very involved in multiple events, devoting their time to different parts of the church! Some of these include:

- Halloween Party & Corn Maze
- Jelly & Juice Drive for SCAN
- Putting together “pet ghosts” for the Senior Luncheon
- Serving at the Ham & Oyster Dinner
- Friendsgiving - Put together favors for the December Senior Luncheon

Youth Group is for students in grades 6-12. The group meeting twice a month on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m



ADULT ASP



JONESVILLE, VIRGINIA

October 11 - 14, 2023

KIDS CORNER CHILDRENS CHOIR

These past months have just flown by! The children amaze me weekly with their desire to learn and continued excitement in singing to Jesus! I have 15 minutes a week to teach these amazing young people songs about love and praising Jesus. We have two groups... the Pre-K (ages 2-5) and the combined classes with Kindergarten through 5th grade. The K-5 class has been learning about newer Christian music as well as traditional hymns, with added percussion instruments such as handbells (with coordinating notes), jingle bells, and hand clapping.



The Pre-K children are enjoying the traditional songs about Jesus with instruments like kazooes, jingle bells, and triangles. This last month we have set our attention on the Baby in the manger... learning Traditional Christmas carols and even a few newer songs.

Praise be to God for our ever-growing Sunday School!

Respectfully Submitted by,
Lisa Gottwals, *Music Coordinator*



Children's Pageant



WELCOME DARRELL!

Friendship's New Organist & Choir Director Darrell Rison!

From Darrell:

Welcome to the Season of Light!

Epiphany season sets forth the pathway for us to continue rejoicing in the greatest “new idea” ever known to humankind: the Incarnation of God in Christ Jesus! Whether you are a sage following a star or a driver attuned to GPS, the presence of the Spirit in our lives is our own North Star, our trustworthy internal navigation system.

This liturgical cycle, the season is compressed, with Ash Wednesday co-occurring on St. Valentine's Day. So, over the next few weeks, let your little light shine. Sing all the alleluias you can muster. Rejoice greatly in the new beginning, the tabula rasa we have been offered through the birth of the tiny one who changed everything. And who continually nudges us toward change, spiritual growth, and enlightenment. Look for our music in the coming weeks to reflect on these themes and for our lectionary readings to unfold the ways in which The Light of the World moves from the cradle to the River Jordan to the temple toward his full expression as God Made Flesh.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God has dawned upon YOU!



FUMC CELEBRATIONS

FUMC is sending a warm welcome to all of our new members and those who were baptized in 2023!

Baptisms

Adley Rose Johnson - March 11, 2023

Phil King - May 28, 2023

Brian King - May 28, 2023

Julia King - May 28, 2023

Hunter Leverich - August 27, 2023

Lily Leverich - August 27, 2023

Martin Reynolds - October 8, 2023

Emersyn Fae Hardesty - December 3, 2023

New Members

Kevin Cross - February 12, 2023

Susan Cross - February 12, 2023

Patrick Quinn Beall - April 16, 2023

Skip Mead - April 30, 2023

Phil King - May 28, 2023

Cathy King - May 28, 2023

Delbert Puschert - July 9, 2023

Kimberly Puschert - July 9, 2023

Jerry Leverich - August 27, 2023

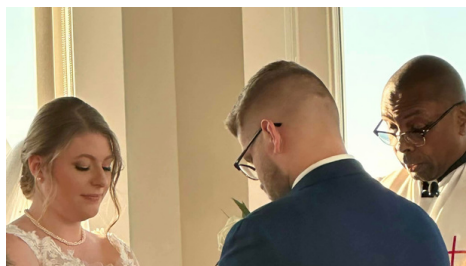
Annie Leverich - August 27, 2023

Andrew Reynolds - October 8, 2023

Jennifer Reynolds - October 8, 2023

Jeffrey Michael Hardesty - December 3, 2023

Congratulations to Meredith and Quinn Beall on their marriage!



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Thanksgiving Eve Service



All proceeds went to the Calvert & Southern Anne Arundel County Food Banks

Christmas Cantata



Christmas Eve Services

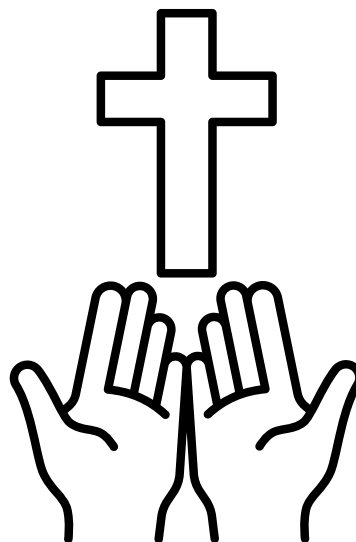


DISCIPLESHIP

Book of Philippians



Advent Study



2023 DIRECTORY UPDATES

Mary Kauffman: 240-491-1280 (cell) No home phone*

Elizabeth (Betty) Brinker: 301-775-5532

Sally Lounsbury: 410-533-3279

Ruth Bailey: ruthbaileyart@gmail.com

Linda Revell: 443-771-2256

Sharon Fowler: 410-610-3517 (cell)

Barbara Estes: 4007 Carousel Way,
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Rick Bailey: 904-553-2680

Ruth Bailey: 904-553-2691

***Picture & Name Update**

Skip & Suzanne Mead



If you have not, please pick up a copy of the 2023 FUMC Directory located in the Narthex.

For any future updates on your information, please email Bonnie Dean, bsuedean@friendshipmethodist.org

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY

On behalf of the entire Gottwals family, we wish to thank you all for the many calls, cards, visits, and prayers during our time of remembrance. Also, we especially appreciate the enormous help supplying food for Harry's Memorial Service. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and compassion so graciously extended to our family during our time of loss.

In Christian Love,
Lisa, Phil, and the entire Gottwals family



JANUARY 2024

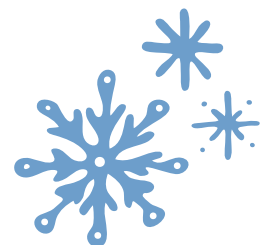


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3 Board of Trustees	4	5	6
7	8 *WIF Mission Project	9	10	11	12	13
14 Friendship Hour	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Finance Committee Meeting	23	24 Church Council	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

January Event Details

Women in Faith, Mission Project
Preparation of Valentine Cards for FUMC members

HAPPY
New Year



FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 United Men's Ministry Breakfast
4	5	6 Board of Trustees	7	8	9	10
11 Jazz Music @11 service ASP Super Bowl Sub Sale	12 *How Seniors Can Avoid Fraud Program	13 Pancake Supper	14 *Ash Wednesday Service @7pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Church Council	28	29	1	2

February Event Details



Ash Wednesday

7am Drive Through imposition of ashes

How Seniors Can Avoid Fraud Program

Brian Marsh, the Deputy State's Attorney for AACO - "How Senior Can Avoid Fraud"

Super Bowl Sub Sale

Return order forms to Sub Sale box in Narthex. Orders may be placed up to 12:00pm on 2/12/24.





MARCH 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	1	2 United Men's Ministry Breakfast
3	4	5	6 Board of Trustees	7	8	9
10	11 *Your Wish, Your Will, Your Way*	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 *Palm Sunday	25 Finance Committee	26	27 Church Council	28 Maundy Thursday Service @7pm	29 Good Friday Service @7pm	30
31 *Easter Sunday						

March Event Details

Your Wish Your Will Your Way Presentation
 Presentation and Q&A by Anne Arundel County Register of Wills
 *A Women in Faith event

Easter Sunday Worship Services
 Sunrise Service @ Herrington Harbour South - 6:30 am
 Easter Morning Services @ FUMC - 8:30 am and 11 am



2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Please make any 2nd Quarter Newsletter submissions to Morgan Miller, Brooke Miller or Kim Puschert by March 15th, 2023.

Email: morganemily17@outlook.com, brookecmiller@outlook.com or kapuschert@gmail.com

Email subject should follow: ***Spring Newsletter “Committee” Submission***

Significant submissions include:

- A summary of recent accomplishments/ achievements
- Upcoming events or significant dates
- Pictures/ graphics showing the event or people involved

