

# THE MESSENGER

JULY 2022

## Now is the Time

"Remember not the former things nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

It has already been a year since I stepped into the lead pastor's position at BUMC. Even though it seems a short time, we underwent many changes during my first year at BUMC.

I thank members of BUMC who have been adapting yourselves to the unfamiliarity of having the first racial-ethnic woman in charge of the church's leadership. I understand that it has not been easy for some; however, I also thank you for your prayers and patience with me.

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling graciously re-appointed me to BUMC as of July 1, 2022. I am delighted to continue to serve this great congregation.

I feel the warm breeze of the new spirit at BUMC. Now is the time to grow after a challenging year of changes and two and a half years of going through the pandemic.

The Church Council had a retreat on June 4, and the leaders agreed on five focus areas for 2022-2023 based on the vision and mission statements. (Sidebar)

### THE VISION OF JESUS

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."  
(Matthew 6:10).

### LEAD PASTOR'S VISION FOR BUMC

"The repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." (Isaiah 58:12)

### BUMC'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Growing together to love and serve Christ, our neighbor, our world."

### BUMC'S CALL TO ACTION

"Wash More Feet."

## Five Focus Areas

God is calling BUMC to see the dream that God has for us. God urges us, "It springs forth; do you not perceive it?" through the prophet Isaiah. To discern God's dream for us, the Church Council wanted BUMC to focus on these five areas for 2022-2023.

### 1. Grow: Go Back To The Basics

John Wesley led the revival movement in England known as Methodism. In his sermon, "On Laying the Foundation of the New Chapel," Wesley said, "Methodism, so-called, is the old religion, the religion of the Bible, the religion of the primitive church." Wesley's statement calls us back to the basics of our faith.

According to John Wesley, Christian principles are attending public worship, receiving communion, devotion in prayer, reading the Scripture, attending Bible study, and fasting. We will focus on these Christian principles to deepen our faith.

### 2. Love: Re-Connect and Build Relationships

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46-47). In the congregational survey, we conducted this spring, we asked, "How can we help you grow spiritually, helping you grow closer to God?" We also asked, "What can we do differently for everyone to feel connected and cared for?" As a result, 56% of people responded to checking on those who have not been attending church, and 45% of respondents responded to having more small group opportunities.

To respond to these requests, we will organize ourselves with BUMC Band Meetings. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, established different meetings from larger to smaller: Methodist societies, class meetings, bands, and Holy Club.

A band is a small group aimed toward an internal gathering of Christians.

Band meetings were composed of small groups of six to eight people with a facilitator. Through band meetings, we will practice listening deeply to one another and loving unconditionally to heal each other's wounds of loss, disappointment, and loneliness during the pandemic. Historically, the band has been proven to achieve love and growth in unity. The final goal of the band is to harmoniously seek growth in holiness and pursue holy living motivated by flexibility and change. We plan to organize band meetings during the summer and implement them starting in the fall.

### 3. Serve: Embrace Diversity and Inclusion

BUMC will pursue equity for all people - equity of opportunities and access to resources will make a difference in people's lives. About 12 of us have participated in the "A

Diverse Church by Design” program from the conference. The curriculum is written based on the Design Thinking Theory. The core concept of this program is that we can achieve diversity by following a strategic process. We are at the stage where we identified the problem at BUMC regarding diversity and inclusion, and the group came up with the statement below:

“The BUMC community has been damaged by the COVID pandemic and world and local events. BUMC seeks to rebuild the foundation; provide a space to encourage and respect diversity in membership, though, and theology; and address conflict in an open and transparent way.”

We will create space and opportunities so people can have “brave conversations” without judgment.

#### 4. Educate: Share Facility and Your Brain

The love of education is deeply rooted in my heart. Therefore, sharing the reservoir of intellectual resources at BUMC with the community and the world only makes sense since God has blessed BUMC with people with higher education.

There are two ways BUMC can share the resources we have for promoting education:

One is sharing our facility and restarting a nursery/pre-school. Mike Moran, Riley Williams, and Dianna Mears have been exploring a possibility, and there is a great opportunity that we can make this happen in spring 2023. The other is that we can share the intellectual gift that

BUMC has through technology with the world. Now we work with the Lakelands Institute, which helps churches with communication and technology for our communication technology needs. There is an excellent possibility that we can develop online educational resources for the world in collaboration with Lakelands Institute. This could take more time; however, I believe that God has given us this mission.

#### 5. Give: Raise Financial Resources for Ministry

We have formed a Stewardship Team led by Mike Mitchell. The members are so far, Pat Harvey, Neil Gregory, Shaw Brewer, Karen Kirwan, Mike Moran, and Socorro Sliker. We want to have a young parent for our group. If you are interested, please let me know.

The Stewardship Team prayed every morning for the week of June 13-18 seeking guidance for our stewardship plan. Our goal is to strategize a plan and start implementing it in late August, much earlier than in the past. I pray we will have another full-time associate pastor within two to three years.

I ask for your prayers and support for BUMC to focus on these five areas. The Lord has blessed BUMC with people who possess many gifts, talents, and resources, and we cannot build up the BUMC community and ministry without you!

Yours in Christ,



## BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL ART FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 18 — Tuesday, September 20

Calling All Artists!

Sunday morning, September 18 through Tuesday evening, September 20 we will hold a congregation art show in Founders Hall.

Reception and Art Viewing will follow the September 18 Sunday service.

All members of the BUMC community from the youngest artist to the oldest artist are invited to participate.

All art mediums – watercolors, oils, pastels, tempura, collages, sculptures, charcoal, pencil and ink sketches, jewelry, cross-stitching, crocheting, and photography are welcome in the show.

Details to follow in the months ahead.

If you are interested in participating in the BUMC Art Festival or have questions, please contact Mike Mitchell at 301-526-0695 or mcmitchell51@gmail.com.

# MISSION AND ADVOCACY

During Pride Weekend in Washington DC, several BUMC members partnered with North Bethesda UMC to set up a booth at the Pride Festival on June 12. BUMC members divided up into shifts spanning 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., spoke with festival attendees, and handed out “favors” to represent our church. Given the recent changes in the Methodist church - much of which has been publicized in the press - it was a great opportunity for us to meet some very nice people and reassure attendees that BUMC and North Bethesda UMC are open and welcoming to all. There has never been a more important time as a church to show people that we are reconciling. On June 19, Dennis Williams took to the pulpit to talk about his experiences in the LGBTQIA+ community and his work with church leadership to establish a support group at BUMC. We look forward to continuing this important work over the year ahead!



## Poor People's Campaign

On June 18, several members of BUMC attended the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, DC, as part of the Baltimore-Washington conference delegation. We bore witness to this important movement, which seeks to ensure government support and legislative momentum for those who are in poverty or considered low income earners (approximately 140 million people in the US). Each state sent representatives, some of whom shared their experiences with the group. There were fantastic speakers - including Cornell West and Rev. Dr. Bernice King - and music was enjoyed by all. The event lasted hours and we are more motivated than ever to continue the important work from our Feeding and Hunger Ministry and Racial Justice Ministry. We are already looking forward to gathering next year to continue highlighting this important topic!

# MISSION AND ADVOCACY

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MINISTRY NEWS

A lot has been in the news recently about gun violence-- Supreme Court cases, new legislation passed. Will it help us be peacemakers in our communities? Here's something each of us can do individually to help. We can ASK.

ASK stands for Asking Saves Kids. July is a time when many children are out of school, often with more visits outside the home, and less structured or supervised time. Are you visiting grandparents or cousins on a road trip? Maybe stopping to visit an old college roommate you haven't seen in years? ASK Day is when we remind parents, guardians,

and caretakers to ask, "Is there an unlocked gun in your home?" It's a simple question, but it could save a life.

Every day, eight children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun found in the home. See [Besmartforkids.org](http://Besmartforkids.org) for more info.

Wednesday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. is the next meeting of the BUMC Gun Violence Prevention ministry. Contact [susanbender@comcast.net](mailto:susanbender@comcast.net) for more info.



## MISSION MONDAYS

Mission Monday will be the 4th of July this month, so we need all the help we can get. Something in the Messenger, all of the BUMC announcements this coming week, a Sunday slide, etc.

### MISSION MONDAY 4TH OF JULY!

Many of us have a holiday on the 4th of July, butunger does not take a holiday.

McKenna's Wagon will be open and needs our help! We will be collecting baggies of trail mix and individually wrapped meat and cheese sandwiches (NO PB&J) for McKenna's Wagon on Monday, July 4 from 8:30 -10:00 a.m. in the Huntington Parkway Lot at BUMC. Please put your sandwiches in a plastic bag or box, labeled with the type and quantity. We will also collect canned goods and other nonperishable food items for Bethesda Help at this time.



## AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

### THEY OWN A CAR!

Since October, we have been working with Congregation Beth El to help support a refugee family from Afghanistan. We are happy to report that the family has a very nice used car thanks to a generous donation from a Beth El member. They are so thrilled to own a car and have the independence that comes along with it. Janet Edmonds and Laury Bobbish, co-chairs of the BUMC Afghan Refugee Committee, were able to assist the father, Atiqullah, in getting his driver's license. Both parents have jobs, and the kids did well in school this year. Each of the children has found a close friend from Afghanistan. This summer, they plan to spend a lot of time at the pool. The family is extremely appreciative of all the ways that BUMC and Beth El have helped them.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



# CHILDREN

## Kids with Purpose - Summer 2022

Join us in Kids with Purpose this summer and learn about places around the world!

We are super excited to have guests with us this summer, who will be teaching our children about Pakistan, India, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Peru and Ecuador.

Kids with Purpose will also be organizing two fundraisers to support the work of Heifer, International. Be on the lookout for our Heifer Table in the Narthex on July 31 and August 28, and consider making a generous donation. Support transformational change from the ground up. Our projects provide animals, training and basic necessities to help families lift themselves out of poverty. For more information about the great work that Heifer does, go to [www.Heifer.org](http://www.Heifer.org).

## Who Wants to SERVE in WORSHIP this summer?

Summer is a great time to learn to serve in new ways. Do you want to learn to acolyte, help with a Children's Message, sing a song? Email [Beth@washmorefeet.org](mailto:Beth@washmorefeet.org) if there are ways your child and/or family would like to lead in worship.



# CHURCH WORKS

As I write this, we are just beginning a sermon series and Bible study on the parables. In her book *Short Stories of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine says that in the parable of the lost son, the point is not about the older son being jealous but about the older son being forgotten in all the excitement of his younger brother's return. In her book, Dr. Levine says the point of this parable, "Most of us, including the dad in the parable, had lost count." We have even lost count of each other.

Sometimes it might feel like we are uncounted for by the world, our family, our co-workers, or even our church. It might feel like we are just going along without much for people to notice. But I want to promise you two things that can be guaranteed. First, God is not going to forget about you. Psalm 139 begins,

*1 You have searched me, Lord,  
and you know me.  
2 You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.  
3 You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.  
4 Before a word is on my tongue  
you, Lord, know it completely.  
5 You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.  
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.*

And it goes on to talk about our inability to hide from God and how God had known us before we even existed. This makes it one hundred percent clear that God is with us and knows us every day, even the average mundane days.

Second, your church knows you. We not only want to be there for the heartbreakingly hard days or the spectacularly breathtaking ones. We want to be there every day. We want to be there to study with you, worship with you, and grow closer to God with you daily. And we want to pray for you.

Beginning the week of July 3, we are launching a new prayer initiative called "You know me." It reminds us that each of us belongs to God and is known in this place. Each week, seven families or individuals will be prayed for. You will be prayed for by the prayer group that meets in the church every Wednesday in the sanctuary, the prayer group that meets every Thursday on Zoom, and the prayer team every day during that week. When it is your time, we will email you the week before to give you the Zoom link and see if you have any specific requests.

Please be patient, as it may take some time for us to get to your name. However, until then, know that your church and God love you. And, we are here for you always. Please, as always, feel free to email any prayer requests to me at [shaw@washmorefeet.org](mailto:shaw@washmorefeet.org).

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

## BIRTH

**Eleanor Joan Carkhuff** was born to Madison Yeutter & Jonathan Carkhuff on Thursday, June 9, 2022. Proud grandparents are Van and Shelley Yeutter.

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Jennifer & Ric Davis	July 01	29 years
Sharon Ringley & Jon Potter	July 04	18 years
Matt Nau & Robin Daly	July 11	34 years
Phil & Janice Page	July 11	34 years
Ethel Dick DeHaven	July 12	63 years
Mark Sincevich & Linda Petursdottie	July 13	19 years
Katie & Evan Harris	July 24	10 years
Chuck & Heidi Hanson	July 25	34 years

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 01	Kenneth Gordon Andrew Lowrie
July 03	Gordon Smith Claire Payette
July 07	Ella Johnson
July 08	Asha Dahiya
July 09	Meredith Forte Erik Gunnarsson
July 10	Gregory Pfaff Madeline Pfaff
July 11	Elizabeth Iversen
July 13	Isabel O'Malley
July 14	Caroline Jagger Carla Olson
July 15	Thomas Warrington
July 17	Zarielle Igwe Edward Goldberg
July 18	Alayna Nau Mikaela Nau
July 19	Daniel Short
July 20	Lucy Butera Matthew Weaver
July 21	Madison Yeutter Michael Fratantoni
July 25	Meyer McFeely Charlie Teixeira
July 26	Sabrina Bauer Charley Hurley
July 27	Katherine Studabaker Claire Gregory
July 29	Faith Vedamony Carl Eichenwald Jon Gillette
July 30	Kathryn Welch Judy Kushnier
July 31	Alex Long Andrew Szparaga



And a very special happy birthday to Jane Long Betz who turns 101 on July 20th!

## Stewardship Committee Update

The BUMC Stewardship Campaign for the coming budget year got underway in a very positive way with Committee member participation in morning prayer meetings June 13-18 via Zoom. The morning prayers and scripture readings were led by Reverend HiRho and Shaw Brewer. This was a quiet reflective time to seek God's guidance in the work of the Committee in the months ahead. The members of the Stewardship Campaign Committee this year include Reverend HiRho, Mike Mitchell (who has agreed to chair the Committee), Shaw Brewer, Neil Gregory, Pat Harvey, Karen Kirwan, Mike Moran, and Socorro Sliker-Diaz. The Committee will work actively with other leaders of our congregation to ensure a unified and successful stewardship initiative in the months ahead. The Committee will work closely also with Steve Martin on our messaging and communications aspect of the campaign. The next step in the process will be a social evening for dinner and a time to enjoy each other's company at Kenwood Country Club hosted by Mike Mitchell. Following this social gathering the Committee will convene at Church to begin the important work of setting our goals, formulating our strategy, and framing our implementation plan to meet the financial challenges and goals of our Church in the year ahead. The Stewardship Campaign is vitally important to support the mission and the programs of our Church, to support our staff, and to maintain the infrastructure of our Church. The Stewardship Committee looks forward to the support of every member of our congregation in its work in the coming days.

*Mike Mitchell*  
2022-23 Stewardship Campaign Committee Chairman

## Summer Choir Dates

Come sing with the choir during the summer! We don't sing every Sunday, and we don't rehearse on Thursday nights, but we do still sing during worship on occasion. We gather around 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning to rehearse and then sing at the 10:00 a.m. service. All are welcome - keep an eye on the Messenger and Weekend Update for reminders. We'll sing on July 3 (Communion), July 24, and August 14.



# TWO ROADS DIVERGED

What a journey it has been over the last almost 4 years. And to say that it has been full of twists and turns would be an understatement. And yet, journeying with you through the past four years has been a tremendous gift for me.

Who knew when we started this journey that we'd find ourselves here. The journey has taken us through many of the usual rhythms that we expect, new life and death, graduations, new beginnings, retirements, and the like. We've seen our community grow and change, with members of our community departing, and new members joining. All of these are a part of the changes that we expect.

On the other hand, we've experienced many unexpected changes, the 2019 General Conference, the delay of our 2020 General Conference, the COVID-19 pandemic, the surge in awareness of the pandemic of racism and racially motivated violence in our nation, a presidential election unlike any seen in generations, violence in the nation's Capital and elsewhere, the departure of our beloved Lead Pastor, Rev. Jenny Cannon, and the welcoming of our new Lead Pastor, Rev. HiRho Park. We've welcomed new members to our staff, and have said farewell to others. And now we are preparing to say more farewells over the coming months.

So much change. And yet here is where we are, together. It seems as though the constant of change is ever present before us, and time after time we have been called to lean into the uncertainty of our lives. I don't know about you, but at times it has felt overwhelming and more than I can bear. And yet, we have borne it together and continue to do so now.

When I came to BUMC, I was so excited for the chance to be an associate pastor, and to follow in the footsteps of my colleagues before me. I knew what a place for collaboration and learning BUMC was for them, a place where they experienced God and grew in their faith journey, while also participating in God making the same sort of experiences and growth possible for others. And, like those before me, I grew in many ways, experienced God in and through this community, while having the chance to join in what God was doing in and through you.

Together, we have celebrated births, baptisms, transitions, lives, community, and so much more. We've journeyed together through the great range of emotions that are life shared together in community. We've seen God in the expected and the unexpected. We've changed inwardly and outwardly, whether we wanted to or not, whether we were ready for that change or not. And in all of that, for my part, I can and must say that I have learned more than I could have imagined. And for that, most of all, I am grateful.

But all things, good, bad, and in between, must come to and end. In part because of all that I have learned and experienced, the time has come for me to depart, and continue my journey down another path, as I head to Simpson-Hamline UMC in Washington, DC, and you continue your journey here or wherever you are heading next.

I knew, as did most, if not all of you, that one day our roads would diverge. Our time together was only ever meant to be for a season. And now that season is coming to a close. Itinerancy is a part of our United Methodist system, and one that I think is so important for any organization. In the changing of pastors, I'm reminded of how much my work and the work of the pastors is only ever meant to be part of the larger picture of what God is doing, and how you all have and always will be the church. And when I think about who is Bethesda United Methodist Church, I'm reminded that I was only ever just one part of a much bigger collage that God is still painting for us and the world to know.

The journey for us doesn't end, but our roads will diverge, and we'll continue on, carrying with us all that we have known together and stepping forward to keep experiencing God and growing as people and as communities. Different roads, heading for the same destination, where God's kingdom is real and live for all. As we do so, I pray that we will continue seeking to be the people God created and calls us to be and that you will continue to follow wherever God's Spirit leads you. And as I seek to do the same, I believe that we'll see one another again.

God be with you until we meet again.

Grace and peace,  
*Rev. Scott*

## FOLK FEST 2022

Save the date: On Saturday, October 15, BUMC will resume the honored and fun tradition of the "open mic" Folk Fest.

This is a musical gathering where one and all can come and perform a song or two at church. It is risk-free with an affirming and appreciative audience as well as desserts/snacks.

Folk fest has been a really fun time over the past decade or so. In fact, one member of the church told me that Folk Fest is the reason that he first came to BUMC!

You can perform any kind of song (does not have to be "folk" music). You can perform with others or solo and with the instrument of your choosing (or not). We are open to all ages and would love to have kids!

It is the safest way to release your inner melodies beyond your shower or car.

So come on down at 5:00 p.m. to the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 15 at BUMC and enjoy!! Contact John Euler at (301) 509-7478 for more information.

# JULY 2022

JMC Calendar

Jul 2022 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am - Summer Worship	4th of July - Office 8:30am - Mission Monday	10am - Staff Meeting (in-) 7:30pm - Small Group	12pm - Taizé Prayer	12pm - Prayer Call 7pm - Music Session @	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
High School Faith In Action Mission Trip (Great Lakes)						
10am - Kids with Purpose 10am - Summer Worship 5pm - Racial Justice		10am - Staff Meeting (in-) 7:30pm - Small Group	12pm - Taizé Prayer	12pm - Prayer Call 7pm - Music Session @		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am - Kids with Purpose 10am - Summer Worship		10am - Staff Meeting (in-) 7:30pm - Small Group	12pm - Prayer Bites (in-)	12pm - Prayer Call 7pm - Music Session @		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Middle School Faith in Action Trip (Pittsburgh, PA)						
10am - Kids with Purpose 10am - Summer Worship 5pm - Racial Justice		10am - Staff Meeting (in-) 7:30pm - Small Group	12pm - Taizé Prayer 7:45pm - Women's Book	12pm - Prayer Call 7pm - Music Session @		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Youth Sunday 10am - Kids with Purpose 10am - Summer Worship						

# NOTES

## THE MESSENGER

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