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## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The Good News will now be published quarterly and will continue to feature Faith programs for adults, youth and children, outline new initiatives, highlight opportunities to get involved and include photos of Faith in action.

The Table of Contents will help you navigate this issue giving you a quick overview of what is included. Just click on any article that is of interest and the link will take you directly to that section of the newsletter.

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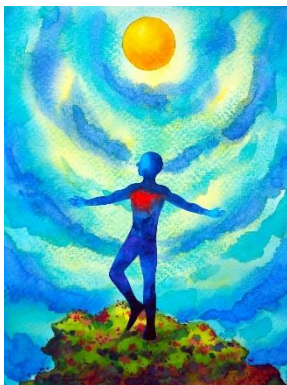
## FROM THE PASTOR



Beloved, there are pumpkin spice flavored things in the grocery store. And school supplies have already been replaced by Halloween candy on the store shelves. How does this happen?

Every year, I expect summer to be slow and sleepy – to have space for visiting and planning and studying and preparing for the year to come. This summer feels like it has been pretty non-stop, with lots of “soil preparation” for our growing Big God Family here at Faith.

Maybe you’ve heard me talk about the Big God Story and the Big God Family. It is an idea borrowed from a colleague, the Rev. Dr. Katie Bishop at Middletown UMC. The story of God is a big one that is ancient and keeps unfolding. Similarly, the family of God – from the Garden to the descendants of Abraham to the disciples to the early church to today – keeps being birthed and formed. In some seasons or eras, it is strong and mighty and fast moving. In other seasons or eras, it is more quietly biding its time.



Our Big God Family is growing. And as a result, our shared work to be a place *to belong, become, believe and be love* is growing as well. By the time this is published, we will have celebrated the hiring of Suzanne Smedberg as the Youth Ministry leader for a shared ministry with North Bethesda UMC in hopes of reaching more and more youth in the greater Rockville and North Bethesda communities. We will be poised to launch a new season of Sunday school for children and younger youth. We will have four new volunteers trained to teach using the Godly

Play resources that Faith has faithfully maintained over many years. We will see the Strathmore Children's Chorus in our building from week to week as kids make music in community. We will host four recovery groups in our building throughout the week. Our robust choir will return and continue to attract new folks. We'll be thinking through how to launch new small groups. We will train new CCMs (Congregational Care Ministers).

There is so much going on. God is so very active in the midst of our family. The Holy Spirit is warming our hearts and moving us into our next chapter, a chapter built on the solid ground of 60 years of history. (Speaking of which – let's shower thanksgiving on our small but mighty birthday planning team – Jan Spencer and Gary Clark. I'm looking forward to singing happy birthday with the whole community on September 15.) Thanks be to God for the ways we are being stretched and continuing to become the Big God Family.



Will you join me in praying about some very specific things this Fall (many of which you'll read about in this newsletter)?

- Let's pray for wisdom as we discern a new structure for leadership that frees us up to keep the main thing the main thing – nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ for a changed world.
- Let's pray for the resources (time, talent and treasure) to do the work we are being called to – like expanding Sunday school, meeting the youth in our community, making our building an asset that serves God's work in Rockville.
- Let's pray for our country to become a place where people know they are loved and are able to share love because there is plenty to go around.
- Let's pray for people to come together within our community to learn, to get out of comfort zones, to celebrate life, to grow as disciples. Let's pray that we truly are a place *to belong, become, believe and be love.*

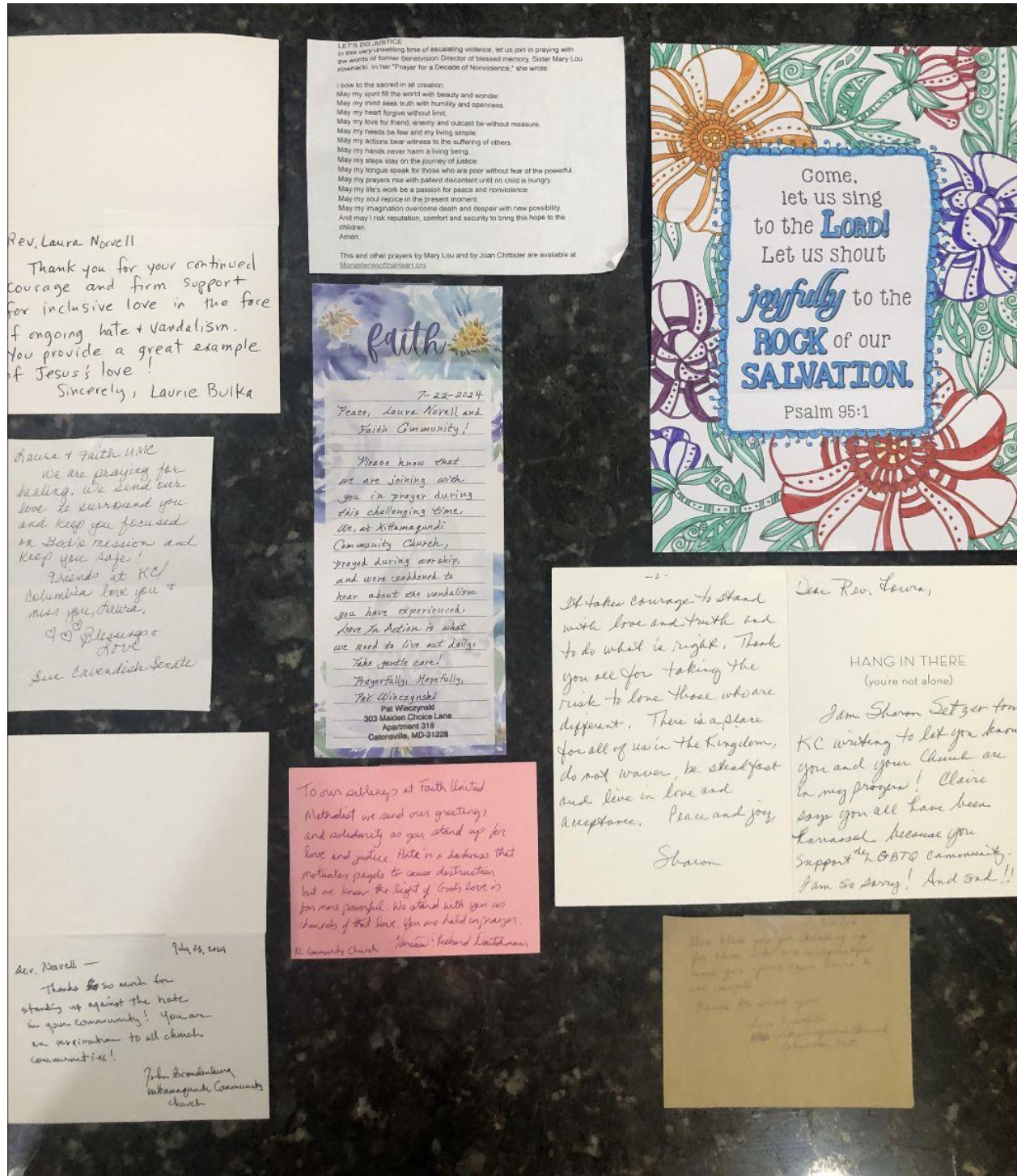
I'm so excited about this next chapter in our shared story. I hope you are too.

Grace & Peace,

*Samuel Nowell*



# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR OUR RECONCILING WORK



In July when our front doors were vandalized, an escalation of vandalism related to our display of a pride flag that had happened since March, we called on the community to reject actions and messages that marginalized others. In response, we received an outpouring of support from neighboring faith families like B'nai Israel, Interfaith Families, Bethesda UMC and North Bethesda UMC, as well as BWARM (Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling Ministries), county councilwoman Kate Stewart, the Kittamaqundi Community Church in Columbia (which happens to be where Pastor Laura and her husband Matt were married and worshiped for a long time), and SO MANY Greater Farmland neighbors. Know that our work to be inclusive matters.

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## FAITH UMC IS TURNING 60!



Faith UMC is turning 60 and you're invited to the party! Join us after worship on Sunday, September 15 to celebrate this milestone with a church potluck. There will be fun and food for all ages. Check out the details below.

### WHAT

Faith's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration – Potluck Party



### WHEN

Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> following worship in Fellowship Hall



### WHAT TO BRING

We'll provide sandwiches, birthday cake and beverages. YOU bring a ready-to-serve side dish to share (e.g. salad, fruit, chips, pasta, cheese/crackers). Help us by including a serving utensil. Drop your dish in the kitchen or Fellowship Hall on your way to worship.



## **WHAT ELSE TO BRING**

While it's certainly not expected or required, you are welcome to bring a birthday gift for the church. Here's a list with some ideas but feel free to be creative (and include a gift receipt).



## **GIFT REGISTRY IDEAS**

- Bags of food for the Blessing Box
- Garden gift cards from Lowes so that the garden team can stock up on seeds, plants and other supplies for next year.
- Any of the items from this Amazon wish list: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3332CQROWFQBG>
- Replacement microwave for the church kitchen (this doesn't have to be new, happy to accept a hand-me down)
- A special donation of \$60 to the church in celebration of its birthday (or \$6 or \$600)!

Willing to pitch in with planning, decorating or clean up? Please reach out to Jan Spencer ([jspencer2@aol.com](mailto:jspencer2@aol.com)) or Gary Clark ([gclarkncm@aol.com](mailto:gclarkncm@aol.com)).

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## **SIMPLIFIED CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

**Community Meeting: Sunday, September 29 following worship**



During the past year, after many years of studying the option, the Church Council at Faith has taken steps to develop a new LEADERSHIP BOARD. The aim is to simplify the leadership structure by using teams for a project, instead of standing committees that meet monthly. We combined Finance and the Trustees into a Resources team in January of 2023, and that in turn may fold into the new Board. In the end, with less

bureaucracy, the hope is to free up more members of the congregation for missional work—living out Faith Church’s role of belonging, becoming, and believing.

We’re holding a community meeting in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, September 29, to discuss the Leadership Board proposal. The meeting will have an online component. In the meantime, please read and prayerfully consider the following – a *Summary* of the proposed structure change and *Frequently Asked Questions*.

You will have the opportunity to vote on the structure change at a special called church conference on Wednesday, October 16 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Our annual church charge conference will be held on Saturday, October 26 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. More details will be shared in future *What's Working at Faith*.

Pam Kessler  
Chair, Church Council

Jesus said:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you.” ~Matthew 28:19–20

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. ...

You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

~Matthew 28:37, 39



## FOCUSING AND STRUCTURING FAITH CHURCH FOR MISSION

The following is a brief summary of a proposal and research completed by the Church Council over the last few years to implement a Simplified Accountable Structure at Faith. This summary will be instrumental in preparing for the September 29th community meeting where a more detailed presentation will be discussed.



- 1. Evolution of Faith UMC:** Over the last five years, Faith UMC has evolved towards outwardness, inclusiveness, and personal relationships before and during the pandemic. After the pandemic, it became a reconciling congregation, a Lighthouse congregation, and focused on *belonging* in community, *becoming* followers of Christ, and *believing* the Good News of the Gospel.
- 2. Simplified, Accountable Structure:** The full implementation of the "Simplified, Accountable Structure" involves consolidating the Church Council, SPRC, and Resources Team into a single Leadership Board. This restructuring aims to optimize Faith UMC for a missional focus, remove decision-making bottlenecks, release more people for transformational ministry, and ensure faithfulness to The Great Commission\*.
- 3. Leadership Board Composition:** The Leadership Board consists of nine laity members plus the Bishop-appointed Pastor. The laity members are divided into three classes for continuity, must be professing or associate members of FUMC, and should include at least 1/3 men, 1/3 women, and at least one young adult.
- 4. Responsibilities of Leadership Board Members:** Members of the Leadership Board, including the Board Chair, Lay Leader, Secretary, Lay Member of Annual Conference, At-Large Members, and Pastor, are all held accountable to Jesus for the Great Commission.
- 5. Purpose of the Leadership Board:** It aligns resources to the mission, vision, and strategies of Faith UMC, maintains focus on governance and ministry teams, executes fiduciary and administrative responsibilities, champions strategic visioning, and ensures accountability for contributing to the Great Commission while keeping the congregation informed.

*\*The Great Commission refers to Jesus' command to go and make disciples throughout the world.*

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## Proposed Leadership Board FAQ



### 1. What is the proposed Leadership Board?

A Leadership Board is a streamlined model of church organization that combines the functions of multiple committees into a single entity, with the goal of more efficient operations, freeing more church members for active ministry.

### 2. What are the committees that would be combined?

The Leadership Board would assume the functions of the current Church Council, Resources Committee, and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

### 3. Why is this step being considered now?

We have now had experience with the Resource Committee as a combination of the previous Finance Committee and Board of Trustees, and that combination has worked well, reducing meeting time and improving communication. This success has shown that consolidation can work, and it is timely to consider going further with this process.

### 4. What are the benefits of combining these groups into one?

Combining these groups will have both missional and operational benefits. In terms of the mission of the church, consolidation will free up time for mission and other activities for participants, and will allow for clear expression and implementation of mission goals, since they will not have to flow through multiple committees. Approval of plans can be expedited, since the key decision makers will be on the same Board.

### 5. How will combining the groups affect their membership and leadership?

The Book of Discipline imposes certain requirements on the membership of certain groups, such as Trustees and SPRC, including age limits, church membership requirements, and limitations on relatives of staff members. The Leadership Board would have to make sure those requirements are met. The Leadership Board would also include a Chair, a Secretary, the Lay Leader and the Lay Member of Annual Conference, as well as five at-large members. Thus, the Leadership Board would have 9 members overall.

**6. Can a smaller group really perform the functions of all of these committees? Won't it be too much work for these individuals?**

The consolidation will reduce some tasks—such as reporting and communication among multiple groups and efforts to get projects approved. In addition, some work can—and should—be carried out by short-term teams of persons who are not necessarily members of the Leadership Board. An example would be the annual Stewardship Team, which is already functioning outside of the Resources Committee.

**7. Who would recruit/choose members of the Leadership Board and other groups and teams?**

Lay leadership is recruited by a Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, that would still continue to function. Opportunities to serve are open to all members of Faith Church (and many are open to those who participate but are not yet members). The slate of proposed leaders would then be elected during a Church Conference.

**8. When would this happen?**

The plan is to institute the new Leadership Board beginning in January 2025. A Church Conference will be convened to permit the congregation to vote to approve the plan.

**9. A personal note from Hunter Prillaman**

I've served on most of these committees over the years—as Lay Leader, and Lay Member of Annual Conference, I've been on Church Council, SPRC, and Resources Committee. I was also on the Education Committee, and way, way back, I was a youth member of the Council on Ministries at my home church. My observation is that a lot of the time in all these committees is spent preparing and listening to reports from other committees. Consolidation would significantly reduce that. In addition, I have observed that most committees are busy at certain times of the year, and much less at other times. This suggests that the Leadership Board's work would be relatively even over the course of a year. I'm also excited by the potential to energize more people for missional and educational work. I think this structure will work well, and I support it.



## **FAITH BEGINS SHARED YOUTH MINISTRY**

Faith UMC and North Bethesda UMC have agreed to a shared youth ministry, jointly hiring a leader responsible for building relationships among youth in the community, leading weekly opportunities for formation, fellowship and service, and helping to build a wider ecumenical collaboration serving youth across congregations. Suzanne Smedberg has answered the call.

Suzanne was identified for her demonstrated ability to be an enthusiastic, creative, and compassionate youth leader who will build relationships with the youth in both congregations. She has served in Faith's Chancel Choir since 2022 and created the Faith 101 curriculum for our new youth members. Suzanne is a physics teacher at Poolesville High School. She and her husband, Benjamin, have 7 children between the ages of 13 and 20.

The emerging shared youth ministry exists to foster a space for young people (middle and high school-age) to experience a welcoming, supportive Christian community that affirms their full identities (including their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socio-economic background), that enables them to develop deep and meaningful relationships with their peers, and that encourages the development of a progressive Christian spirituality in intergenerational community. It is a collaborative effort and provides meaningful opportunities for youth to lead and shape the program.

In addition to the partnership between NBUMC and Faith, we are in the early stages of building an ecumenical collaboration with youth programs in other area churches. We envision monthly opportunities for larger groups of young people to come together in fellowship and service.

**Bill Maas**  
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



## SUZANNE'S VISION



When I was an obnoxious 12-year-old, my father entered the ministry. He was placed as a part-time local pastor at a very small church where we were the only children, but by God's grace, my brother and I found a new church family in a local youth group. Though we didn't attend that church, the people of that congregation helped to shape us into the adults we are today.

It's an extraordinary blessing to be trusted by these two congregations to do the same. I have spent the last 20 years as a teacher and a parent, interacting every day with young people at their best and their worst – but in every case, the difficulty of today is evident. I see that they are carrying the burdens of a sinful world, largely not of their design. Most of all, I can see they are reaching out to God.

This may not be a surprise to you, but I'm a person who needs a plan...preferably color coded. With that in mind, I have been pleading and petitioning God for a neatly organized flow chart of how to perfectly serve our youth. But despite my cajoling and carrying-on, one thing echoes through my heart over and over:

*Love God. Love each other. Change the world.*

By the grace of Jesus Christ, that's what we are ready to do. We are committed to reaching out to our young people, from 6th – 12th grade, and creating whatever programming they need that we can provide. That could look a lot of different ways – from a more typical youth fellowship gathering to homework help to video games to things we haven't thought of yet. It looks like reaching out to our young people and listening to all they have to say.

I don't know where this journey will lead us, but I know that this is the road that God needs us to walk.

Will you pray for us as we begin?

Suzanne Smedberg  
Youth Coordinator

## INTRODUCING FAITH INTERN



We welcome Kristal Neale to Faith! Kris's internship at Faith will prepare her to answer the call of God for service in ministry. This is part of her Master of Divinity Program at Wesley Theological Seminary, and she will be with us for both Fall and Spring semesters. Faith's responsibility in this learning partnership is guided by Pastor Laura with Sara Romeyn serving as Kris's lay learning partner.

Kris intends to engage fully with several ministries at Faith to learn "the ins and outs of being a pastor" and prepare to serve effectively as a minister of the gospel in a culturally diverse world. Although she lives in Pasadena, Maryland, Kris will be at Faith 8–9 hours per week. Moreover, because Faith conducts many committee and teamwork virtually, she will be participating in the Stewardship campaign, attending Church Council meetings and the Charge Conference, assisting with worship planning, and participating in the pastoral study on Tuesday nights. Kris will also preach monthly, beginning in October.

Earlier, Kris was a critical care nurse at MedStar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore. For the last 7 years, Kris has served as Volunteer Youth Leader at two churches, most recently Asbury UMC in Arnold, MD. Since beginning her studies at Wesley, Kris has served as a Student Research Associate with The Source Collaborative at the Wesley Innovation Hub and as Chair of the Discipleship Council of the Baltimore Washington Conference.

Kris has been married to Richie Neale for 14 years and has three daughters Lila (12 years old) and Everly and Adelyn (eight-year-old twins). One of her favorite ways to connect with God is in nature and she loves being outdoors hiking, fishing, kayaking and spending time with family.

According to Kris, "Faith has a lot of good things happening and I am grateful for this learning opportunity and the chance to serve alongside you and the community of Faith." We are grateful, too.

**Bill Maas**  
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Thank you to all who helped contribute special music to our summer worship at Faith including Bells of Faith (Carol Benson, Mary Gordon, Janice Jones, Pam Kessler, Kay McCarty, Jane Rall and Jan Spencer) led by Nancy Kuhn; Chloe, Grace Ann, Howard and Ann Bartlow; Andre Coleman; David Cope; Stephen Czarkowski; Connor Dowd; Kay McCarty; Ben, Maddie and Suzanne Smedberg; Sue Walters; and Luisa Abukarma Watts. A special thanks to Ann Bartlow for organizing the special music featured throughout the summer, in addition to leading our services from both the organ and piano benches. We are fortunate at Faith UMC to enjoy a breadth of musical talent!

### Fall Music Ministries

The Chancel Choir returns to weekly Thursday rehearsals in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, September 5. The Choir assists in leading the Sunday worship from September 8, 2024 to June 8, 2025. We invite anyone interested in joining the Choir, to contact Dr. Michael Wu, at [singingwu67@gmail.com](mailto:singingwu67@gmail.com) or (847) 971-0610.

Bells of Faith returns to regular rehearsals, contributing to worship monthly between September and June. For more information on joining this group, contact Nancy Kuhn, Director at [nancykuhn@gmail.com](mailto:nancykuhn@gmail.com).

The Young Singers of Faith ensemble will continue and is looking for more members. If you have youth from second to twelfth grade inclusive and can participate in rehearsals on Sundays after worship, contact Michael Wu at the above email address.

With great appreciation,  
Michael Wu



## GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)



In the Fall, gardeners prepare their garden beds for the next season. Sometimes that means planting cold weather crops or bulbs to brighten the Spring landscape. Sometimes that means cutting back dead plants and layering on the mulch to nourish the soil for the next year's planting. This year at Faith, our garden continues to blossom and bloom and bear fruit – our Spirit-fed garden that is. As the stewardship team gathered to prepare for our Fall campaign, we found ourselves noting all that is

growing and teeming and thriving at Faith – our choir, our creative worship, our Sunday School, our Messy Church, the community use of our building, our dreams for a community youth group, our generous support for community needs. These are just some of the places we notice growth, and such fruitfulness needs to be watered and nurtured in the year to come by our generosity, with our time, our talent and our financial resources.

It is part of the rhythm of our church year and a key part of our discipleship journey to prayerfully commit resources to the church. We give because we receive. We give because it helps us honor God. We give because the church has a budget and we want our church to do good work. In late September, we'll begin hearing about the importance of our generous commitments. Expect to hear from members of all ages and to hear from old and new members alike as we testify to the growth we see and what happens in our hearts when we grow in generosity.

Let's Grow in Faith Together and see how our GIFT keeps our garden thriving.

We are grateful for a dynamic team leading this year's stewardship effort, including: Mike Coppersmith, Gordon Henley, Jim Johnston, Pastor Laura, Jane Rall, Maddie Smedberg, and Jan Spencer. Stay tuned for additional information in weeks to come!

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## **COMMUNION SUNDAY TABLE OF SERVICE**

The need for food is as great as ever. Please help our hungry neighbors. Bring non-perishables with you to worship on the first Sunday of each month. A good way to remember is that on the Sundays we share the Communion feast, we also share our abundance with others. Items can be left on the table or basket in the narthex to the left of the door into the sanctuary. Your donations will help keep the Blessing Box stocked. Click on the button below to access a list of suggested food items.

You can also donate toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand soap, shampoo, tampons/pads, etc.

The Blessing Box is a community effort so no one person is responsible. In addition to donations, taking the initiative to move items into the storage area near the office or directly into the Blessing Box is always appreciated.

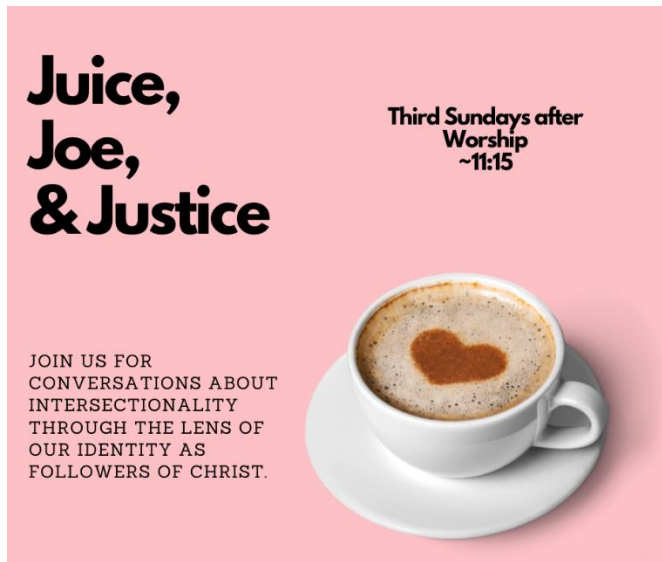
Thank you,  
Faith's Outreach Team

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## JUICE, JOE & JUSTICE

October 20 and November 17 following worship



Juice, Joe & Justice will continue the monthly discussion of social justice issues and how our own identity and experiences may impact how we work to expand our love for all of our neighbors. These events are not a continuing series, so every conversation stands alone. Share your experience and learn alongside others on the journey.

The group meets on the third Sunday after worship in room 206

(the Youth room). If you can't make the discussion in person, there is also an opportunity for folks to join on-line. (See Zoom in Friday's *What's Working at Faith*.)

Links to study materials will be provided in *What's Working at Faith* the Friday before each session. We encourage everyone to review the materials, but if you don't have time, please still participate. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bill Maas at [billmaas@verizon.net](mailto:billmaas@verizon.net).

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## TRY SOMETHING NEW!



### COMPANION GROUPS

Are you longing to connect with others in our congregation beyond Sunday morning? This year we have been asked to pilot a program that brings together intergenerational groups once a month for a meal, for an activity and for some reflection questions.

It's a little bit like Messy Church (think shared meal and hands on reflection) in small groups (and probably with less mess). If you are interested in being part of a

group like this for 10 months, please email Pastor Laura at [revlaura@faithworkhere.com](mailto:revlaura@faithworkhere.com)? Thanks!

### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SEPTEMBER 3

Once again this year, Pastor Laura will lead a weekly scripture study looking at the text for the next Sunday's worship focus. We continue with the Narrative Lectionary and when we meet on September 3, we'll consider portions of Genesis 2 and 3 (most likely 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8). The Narrative Lectionary covers the big story of God from creation to the birth of the church at Pentecost each year with a focus on one particular gospel text from Epiphany through Easter. This year we will begin in the old testament with a winter/spring focus on Luke's gospel. This study will be offered in a hybrid format – available in person and online and will meet from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. each week.

**BYOB: Bring Your Own Bag lunch**

Last year Carol Henley and Carol Dismukes volunteered to organize monthly gatherings for fellowship, learning and making connections. Now that they have paved the way, we invite you to help organize this next season of gatherings OR JUST ORGANIZE ONE MONTH. They are held on the second Friday of each month. If you feel that organizing is one of your spiritual GIFTS, email the church office at [office@FaithWorksHere.com](mailto:office@FaithWorksHere.com)!

### Empty Nesters

Attention all parents of young adults! Our "Empty Nester" group meets quarterly for fun and fellowship. We have two gatherings on the horizon. On **Sunday, September 22nd**, we will head downtown after the service for lunch and a visit to the Planet Word Museum. On **Saturday, December 7th** from 10-noon we will volunteer at the "North Pole" at A Wider Circle, helping families to select and wrap holiday gifts for their children. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Denise Bryant.

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## THE FAITH COMMUNITY GARDEN



Hours of sweat equity has helped to create a community garden! We weeded, constructed 10 raised beds, filled the beds with soil and compost and covered the ground with mulch. This spring, the garden came to life! Because of the volunteers who planted a wide variety of seeds and seedlings, we have harvested many types of lettuce, green beans, peas, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, peppers, eggplant, chard, watermelon, and a variety of herbs.

Emily Sama-Miller and Sara Romeyn spearheaded this effort, with several other church members involved in weekly watering, weeding, and harvesting. We have distributed our bounty primarily through our Blessing Box. Neighbors in need are able to stop by the church to take the needed non-perishable food and hygiene supplies, all donated by our community. We added a cooler to store fresh produce, also free for the taking. Other crops have gone to Manna or to church members and visitors. We've even served zucchini bread and watermelon at a Sunday's Fellowship Time.

The garden has been a labor of love and lots of fun! We've come together as a Church, rolled up our sleeves, and dug in to create a spirit-blessed garden. Want to learn more or get involved? Please contact Emily or Sara.

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## HOW TO FIND "SERENITY"



Faith UMC has a labyrinth built into the paving stones of the Memorial Garden. This labyrinth has served to welcome more members of our community. A photo of the Faith labyrinth with an article quoting Pastor Laura was featured in the May/June issue of Bethesda Magazine - included in a section subtitled "How to Find Serenity." The

labyrinth is used by our young campers each summer; following memorial services guests have been seen quietly walking the labyrinth; neighbors from the Farmland community walk the labyrinth and now a new community of walkers will enjoy its serenity.

The group is the Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Walking Club, based in Gaithersburg (<http://sugarloafers.org>). They have special programs where members are given awards for walking certain distances or to specific destinations. A new 2024/2025 program focuses on walks that pass by labyrinths. Linda Pickle is a member of Sugarloafers Walking Club and suggested the Faith labyrinth to include a 5k path around the neighborhood. The Club has plotted 2 walks, both 5k, that go through our courtyard, one that starts at Faith and the other that starts at Pike & Rose.

The proposed walks need to be sanctioned before use by the national group, the American Volkssport Association (AVA). This will take months, but then it can be walked by any AVA member or by a group at any time (called a Year-Round Event). The Sugarloafers' leaders who are charged with finding new walks for the group are excited about the Faith labyrinth as it is easy to get to, the neighborhood is pretty, the roadways/bike paths are quiet and the Faith courtyard is well maintained - an opportunity for members to find serenity.



## FAITH IN ACTION



D.C. Capital Pride Parade May 2024



The birth of Biff and Nancy Ganz's grandson is celebrated with a yellow rose on the altar.



Pride in the Plaza, Silver Spring, MD



Staff Recognition Sunday, June 9, 2024



### FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

Ann Bartlow, Organist

André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader

Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator

Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture

Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff

Kim Webster, Finance Manager

Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director