



Emmanuel United Methodist Church
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EMMANUEL DRIVE-IN WORSHIP



The Lamplighter
The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



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JUNE 2020

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From the Pastor's Desk

Safe Re-Entry

The current situation makes me feel like I am in the twilight zone. When I go to the store, my anxiety level rises.

When I walk down the aisle, I do a quick check to see how crowded it is. When I encounter someone, can I pass without getting too close to anyone. When will it end? Not just the physical distancing, but the hyper-vigilance too. I make it a point to speak to the worker that I see because I am grateful for what they are doing for me and my family. I ask myself how can there still be people who do not see that we are in a crisis? I know I am not alone. We are in the season of celebrations. But we are not celebrating. On February 26, we gathered on Ash Wednesday to start the period of Lent. As I think back to that time, the attitude of the land seemed like another year of doing the Easter season by rote. We were going through the motions of making sacrifices. We haven't really given up much, or committed ourselves to sacrifice, or stayed committed to what we pledged to give up. This pandemic period more than makes up for our lack of commitment.

2020 will be remembered for forcing us to look at life differently, and that's good. It may seem odd, but we are getting a lesson in contentment. Paul, when he was Saul, knew firsthand about wealth and privilege, he came from that background. When he was stopped in his tracks and blinded, his encounter with Jesus changed his life and his purpose. He started living as a disciple and the pendulum swung in the other direction. He suffered for his belief and was content with his situation.

As we consider what it means to safely re-enter the building, we cannot go back to who we were as a congregation, or a nation. This is an opportunity for us to re-evaluate how we do and view church and be content. Paul's delight came from spreading the gospel and helping God's people. Simple. We are seeing creative acts of kindness and community every day. I pray we keep it going and consider what it means to also re-enter society safely and be content with our new way of living.

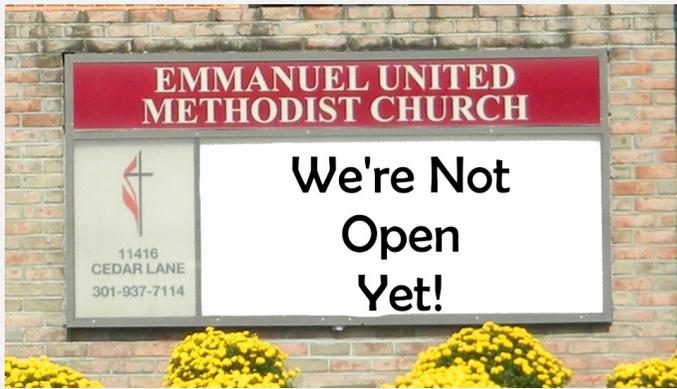
Blessings,
Pastor



HOLY BIBLE

When Will We Open and What Will it Look Like?

By Bobbie Deegan



Hi, friends at Emmanuel! Thank you for your faithful giving during this unusual time. We are living through a period that is challenging on so many levels: our health, mental health, work, church, and family time have all been disrupted. We've had to re-think our recreational activities, how we worship and how we shop. We can't wait until things get back to normal! Unfortunately, it looks like "the way things were" will be something we remember as "the good old days." In the immediate future, we are going to have to adjust to a "new normal" that includes safeguards to keep all of us healthy once we leave our homes.

The Church Council is starting to envision how this will look at Emmanuel. What changes will need to be made so that we can worship in person once more? The Conference is giving us guidance to get us started thinking in the right direction. Among the changes: the sanctuary building will need to have a "deep cleaning" before we can worship there again; anything that someone conceivably touched when in the building (pews, Bibles, hymnals, door handles, bathroom fixtures, tables, etc.) will have to be sanitized immediately afterward; hand sanitizer will be readily available for those who have touched something; and everyone will have to wear masks while they are in the building.

Since Prince George's County is one of Maryland's Covid-19 hotspots, the Church Council anticipates that Emmanuel won't reopen for services for several more months. Even when the church building does reopen, some worshipers will likely prefer to stay at home until the threat recedes. The Council work team hopes to establish a means to "stream" the "live, in-person" worship services in real-time for those at home (in other words, those at home can watch the service as it is going on), but this will require additional technology.

Now, for the bad news – none of this was included in the church budget we approved last December. Purchasing hand sanitizer and sanitizing cleaning products in bulk, face coverings for worshipers who don't have them, additional technology to serve the home-bound, etc. will be costly. If you are in a position to make a special contribution to Emmanuel to help cover the costs of protecting the congregation from Covid-19, the members of the Church Council, and especially the Finance Committee, would greatly appreciate it!



Start your week off with Virtual Worship at Emmanuel!

Join us on Sunday mornings in virtual worship through Zoom. Join us for 30 minutes of fellowship from 9:30-10:00 am followed by worship at 10:00. Use this link <https://zoom.us/j/98922434032> or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting. The meeting number is 989 2243 4032. Don't have a computer to use? You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592!



Memory Verse number 6! Halfway there! How are you doing???

Proverbs 6:6-8 (CEB)

6 Go to the ant, you lazy person;
observe its ways and grow wise.

7 The ant has no commander, officer, or ruler.

8 Even so, it gets its food in summer;
gathers its provisions at harvest.



Liberia Education Update from Helen Roberts-Evans, Global Ministries Missionary

Submitted By Deaconess Jane Grays

State of Emergency

On the afternoon of April 8th, President George Weah announced a State of Emergency to stop the spread of COVID-19. While we have restricted movement and must be home from 3:00 pm to 6:00 am, I find time to enjoy the beauty of each day. I am so blessed to be in the United Methodist missionary compound on the beach where I have a sense of space and a sense of community.

My work with United Methodist Schools (UMS) continues. We are trying to find ways to be supportive of our United Methodist Schools. Most parents are not paying school fees and teachers are concerned about being paid while schools are closed. My office is getting much needed scholarship funds to schools as they are received through The Advance #15125B and Operation Classroom, Indiana. We are very grateful for this support. Several schools are helping students remain engaged in learning by preparing notes, assignments, and quizzes for parents to pick up. Ganta UMS and Sannique UMS (both in Nimba County) gave students donated books to take home. The Ministry of Education's teaching by radio classes are on several stations including our Liberia Annual Conference station-ELUM. For now, people can listen in Montserrado and Margibi Counties and the broadcasts should soon be heard in Bomi, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, and Nimba Counties. We hope that the teaching by radio will reach all 15 counties. The Minister of Education, Professor Ansu Sonii, said (on radio) that schools may not reopen this school year. He asked for non-government schools to join in the discussion about how to proceed. The Association of Christian Mission School Systems in Liberia is meeting via conference calls to discuss best practice for opening schools and evaluating and promoting students.

New Staff

From January until April, the office of the late David Geddeh was empty. On April 2, the director of the Department of General Education & Ministry, Rev. Christopher G. Marshall, officially introduced our new staff members. Cephas C. Williams is our new department accountant. Mr. Samuel Karr is our new associate director for administration and scholarship. David Geddeh was serving in all three roles.

School Construction Work

Construction work is ongoing at Jasper Grant UMS in Pleebo, Maryland County. The annex is now ready to be roofed. Donations to The Advance project, Construction of New School Buildings, will help get the roof on and the annex furnished.

Liberia United Methodist Development Services (formerly the Liberia Annual Conference's Department of Community Services) is renovating and expanding the building of Gretta Moffat UMS, our elementary school in rural John Dean Town, Grand Bassa County.

We hope that the construction work will continue smoothly so whenever the new school year begins, students will have spacious classrooms. The additional space is even more appreciated considering the understanding that infected persons can spread viruses when they are physically close to others.

Hope for the Deaf's Student Support

Mary's Meals is a Scottish school feeding program based in Tubmanburg, Bomi County that provides food (rice, oil, beans, salt) to several United Methodist Schools, including Hope for the Deaf UMS in Sinkor, Monrovia. In April, Hope for the Deaf, under the leadership of its Director, David Worlobah, provided COVID-19 awareness to the school's 54 deaf students along with food and handwashing buckets to help keep the children safe and fed while schools are closed. Most families do not have running water, so buckets with faucets are needed for handwashing.



Distribution of rice, soap, and water buckets at Hope for the Deaf was made possible by gifts from Middletown United Methodist Church, Maryland

Fabulous Flashbacks

Summer is a time for barbecues! This month we are going to look back at some of the Summer barbecues and festivals of the past that were held at Emmanuel!



Find us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information
www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville



WE ARE THE CHURCH



This month's member is **Becky Cavallo**



Becky Cavallo

How long have you been a member of Emmanuel? We started attending Emmanuel in 1987 and joined in late 1987 or early 1988, not too long before our third daughter, Nancy, was born. Rev. Karpal was the pastor at the time. One reason we began to attend is that our older daughters were attending the cooperative nursery school that was in the education building and some of our friends in Beltsville with children our children's ages had begun to attend as well. It wasn't a big jump to come on Sunday. I had fond memories of going to Sunday school and church as a child and wanted to make sure my kids had that experience.

What is your fondest memory of being a member? When we first joined Emmanuel, we mostly knew the other parents and children. There were enough parents with children that we had a group called "Parents with Young Children" that met monthly and I have fond memories of those gatherings and friendships. However, I would say some of the best memories come from our church retreats at Manidokan. It was here that I got to know people in a setting outside of church, people of all ages. We played games, ate together, explored the woods and nearby sites, gathered around campfires under the stars, had delightful conversations, and worshipped together in the wooded hills.



Becky and daughter Nancy at one of the many retreats at Manidokan.

What are some of the ministries you have been involved in over the years? I first joined the United Methodist Women as a young stay-at-home mother. The circle provided a baby-sitter and I was able to commune with other adults one day a month. Who wouldn't take that opportunity? Before I knew it, I was also an elected officer and have found myself challenged to do many tasks as a member. I have also taught Sunday school for 2's, 3's, and 4's, participated in various Vacation Bible Schools, and helped with Family Life activities and fundraisers. I also enjoyed doing a program during the church service with Bryant Davis for several Native American Sundays and working with Jane on Angel Tree ministries for umpteen years. I recently set up the "Pass it on" book area in the Narthex with Pastor Jalene's help.

What is your favorite thing about Emmanuel? I would say that my favorite thing about Emmanuel is the people I have met there and who are part of my spiritual journey. I also love going to our Sunday school Bible study class and I enjoy planning the Communion Breakfasts.

What is your favorite scripture or Bible verse? Asking me for my favorite Bible verse is like asking me what my favorite book is. It depends on the moment and the timing. My grandmother had this on a plaque on her kitchen wall: "In Everything Give Thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18". I think it is important to find the good that exists, even in trying times. This is a good foundation for us all.

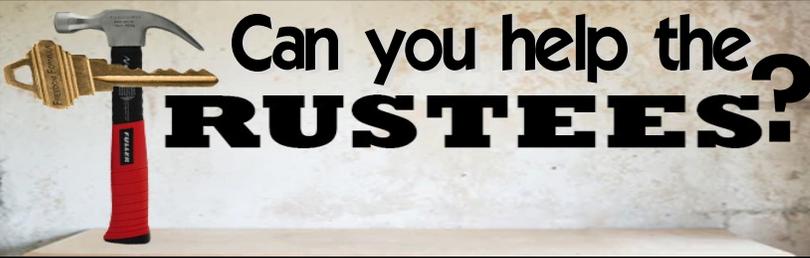


Becky and her husband John with Baby Nancy in the nursery.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION



Can you help the TRUSTEES?

Share your talents at Emmanuel by Sharing the Word as a Scripture Reader during our Sunday Zoom Service! Help for a single Sunday or choose several. You choose how many Sundays you are able to help. To volunteer to serve as a Scripture Reader during our Zoom Sunday Service, just email the office at office@eumcbeltsville.com and they will let you know which weeks are available! No experience needed! We will train you on the job!

No experience needed!

We will train you on the job!



Calling All Gardeners!

The rose bed that is by the patio in front of the church needs some love and care. If an individual or group of individuals wishes to give it some attention, please contact

Barbara Butcher at barbarabutcher@verizon.net or the office at office@eumcbeltsville.com.



APPOINTMENTS
AVAILABLE

The Pastor is available for appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email office@eumcbeltsville.com or call 301.937.7114 to make arrangements.



EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPRING/SUMMER 2020

We would like to acknowledge any and all of the following: Graduates of all levels, Promotions from Grade School or Jobs, Military Training, Trade School, or if you have earned any Certificates. Please email completed form to the church office by June 1st: office@eumcbeltsville.com

Name _____

Name of School/Company etc. _____

Location _____

Degree/Achievment _____

Presently: ___ Living at home. ___ Living away from home. (Check one)

After Graduation: ___ Living at home. ___ Living away from home. (Check one)

If the graduate will not be living at home, please give an address, if known.

Address: _____

Person filling out form _____ Phone _____

Recognition Date: To be Determined

Troop 1033 Update

By Jenny Kresge



Despite the fact that the Troop cannot meet in person, it is growing! Several boys from Cub Scout Pack 1031 in Beltsville and Cub Scout Pack 202 in Greenbelt have "graduated" from the Cub Scout level and joined our Boy Scout Troop 1033! The Troop is always excited to welcome new members!

The Troop continues to work on merit badges and have fun playing games. They have set up a private realm in the popular video game Minecraft and have held various building competitions and even practiced some Search and Rescue techniques! They meet online each Thursday at 7 pm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2. Patrick Mackey
- 3. Lori Midkiff
- 4. Linda Hiner
- 5. Angela Hatton
- 8. Ikenna Onukwubiri
- 10. Ann Ladd
- 14. Tia Dorsey, Janet Reed, Nancy Shiplett
- 18. Ruth Smith
- 24. Ralph Guynn
- 26. Rick Zerbe
- 29. Olivia Heath, Beverly Urick
- 30. Emma Claye

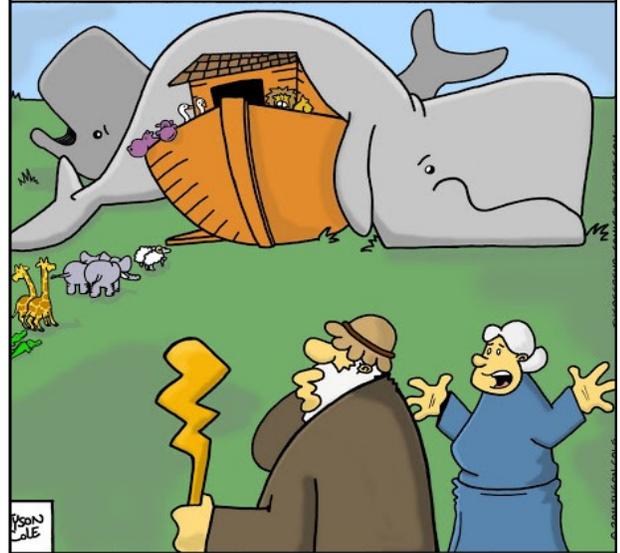
Happy Anniversary

- 3. Olivia & Gary Heath
- 4. Frances & Paul Cruz
- 21. Mary Ann & Michael Vaughan
- 24. Tracy & Cale Fuller
Beverly & C.J. Huneycutt
- 25. Mary & Richard Plantholt
- 28. Jim & Debbie McNitt
- 29. Ester and Michael Hatton



THE DEEP END

TYSON COLE

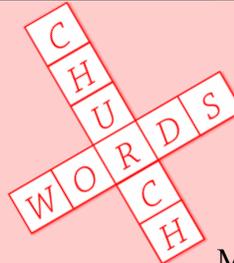


"MAYBE THE WHALES WOULD BE OK STAYING IN THE WATER."

It would be a long, tiring day before the centipedes entered the ark.

ATTENTION! ALL SHOES MUST BE REMOVED AND PLACED ON THE CONVEYOR BELT FOR SCANNING.

Nuts.



Time for another edition of church words! This month we have chosen a word you hear every Sunday. You probably know what it is as well, so I decided to give you a little background and history about it. This month's word is **sermon**. The word sermon comes from Middle English, from Anglo-French *sermun* meaning a discourse up on a text of scripture.

A **sermon** is a lecture by a preacher. Sermons address a scriptural, theological, or moral topic, usually expounding on a type of belief, law, or behavior within both past and present contexts. Elements of the sermon often include exposition, exhortation, and practical application. It's also important to note that sermons are not exclusive to Christianity, they are preached in several other religions as well!



MARYLAND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

When we return to the building, a list of job opportunities are posted on the red community bulletin board in the Narthex.

The need for giving when church doors close

by Crystal Caviness

Originally published on UMC.org on April 7, 2020

The church has left the building. This saying in faith-based circles has increased in popularity during the coronavirus pandemic when social-distancing guidelines have recommended that churches throughout the world close their physical doors. The result in not gathering for usual worship services has been swift to the balance sheet.

Seventy-six percent of United Methodist churches say that giving is down and one-third report that giving is down by 40 percent, according to new research by United Methodist Communications of 1,000 United Methodist churches.

Although there are no offering plates making their way down the pews these days, United Methodists are encouraged to continue contributing to their local congregations.

“It’s important to remember that just because the building is closed doesn’t mean that the church is closed,” says Ken Sloane, director of Stewardship and Generosity, Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

“Ministry is led by leaders, clergy and lay leaders,” he notes, adding that “the need for the church’s ministry has gone up dramatically” in recent weeks.

“Because people are staying in their houses, there’s a growing concern (among church leaders) about anxiety and a concern about people feeling discouraged,” he says. “A message of hope is more important this year than any year in recent memory.”



With this in mind, many pastors are working to connect with church members throughout the week with phone calls, texts, cards and other outreach methods. Church services are happening online.

“There is ministry that goes on just because the church is locked up,” Sloane points out.

As church leaders seek to do church differently these days, members may need to handle giving differently. For those whose giving routine is to drop the check in the plate, consider dropping it in the mail instead.

If churches offer electronic giving, now is the time to sign up, if that hasn’t already happened. Church staff members can offer step-by-step tutorials, if needed. Some newcomers to online giving may be concerned about security. Giving websites, like banks, are encrypted with security measures to keep financial information safe.

In the same way that a church’s income may have been negatively affected, there are many whose financial situations have changed significantly.

“One of the realities of this is that some people may have no income at all,” Sloane says. “But some people have not been financially hurt and may be in a position to do more. We’re really asking people to do what they can, but, if they can’t, we understand.”

Emmanuel has Online Giving!

And it’s easy to use! Just go to our website —

www.eumcbeltsville.com — and follow the prompts to go to a secure Online Donation page hosted by Vanco Services, LLC.

If you prefer, you can scan the QR



Online Giving
Be grateful. Give generously.

In Memoriam

Christian love and sympathy to the families of:

Sterling Johnson (former co-worker of Rick Bergmann), Patrick B. (son of Debbie McNitt’s Neighbor)

Please pray for our sick and shut in

Homebound:
Evelyn Adkins, Harry Cottman, Norma Hall, Carolyn Scarcia, Doris Shirey,

Out of state:
Lil Mizzer

Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com

The Lady With The Lamp Submitted By Jane Grays

At a time when our first responders, doctors, and nurses are putting so much on the line to ensure decent healthcare, it's appropriate to look back at the pioneers of these services. When we do, we often see the same acts of courage and self-sacrifice we see today. This continuity can be a comfort; reminding us we've been through hard times before and there are always people who stand up and meet these challenges. One of these courageous, self-sacrificing pioneers is Florence Nightingale.

Born on May 12, 1820, Florence Nightingale has left a legacy affecting billions. Though born in Italy (in the town that bears her name), she grew up in England, where her pursuit of nursing was seen as beneath her societal status. Nevertheless, Nightingale believed she had received a call from God into "his service."

Nightingale rose to fame for her work in establishing a hospital for the British Army during the Crimean War, where she lowered the death rate from 42% to 2%. Afterward, Nightingale, beset by her own illnesses, became a prolific author. Her writings included the thousand-page Hospital Administration of the British Army and her most famous book, Notes on Nursing.

Throughout her life, Nightingale was a steadfast Bible reader. She had her disagreements with certain practices and doctrines of the Church of England, as well as with some passages in the Bible, but she cultivated a life contemplating and applying the Bible and its teachings. The Bible's role in her life can be seen in her use of Mary's words in Luke to describe her own service, "But still I feel that it is such a blessing to have been called, however unworthy, to be the 'handmaid of the Lord.'"

Let us remember Nightingale's story, of her call and courage, as we see the efforts of thousands who have followed in her steps.



*Give us back our suffering, we cry to
Heaven in our hearts - suffering rather
than indifferentism; for out of nothing comes
nothing. But out of suffering may come the cure.
Better have pain than paralysis! A hundred
struggle and drown in the breakers. One
discovers the new world. But rather, ten
times rather, die in the surf, heralding the
way to that new world, than stand idly on
the shore!*

Florence Nightingale