

The Lamplighter

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

May 2019

Our Mission: To share the light of Christ with all people

www.EUMCBeltsville.com



Giving Birth

I admit, I don't know what it feels like to give birth to a baby human. This article isn't about that type of birth. It is the birth of ideas that come together that make us a family. With all families, personalities are different, which means our ideas will be, also. In this month that we honor mothers, I want to use that concept to share my thoughts. Our birth won't be like the painful, natural one, but more like the slow growth of a flower.

When the pastor casts the vision, it must be presented in a way that encourages others to get on board and involved. We have been slowly living out the vision from the time I arrived. Now we have a focus: "*Engaging Our Community*." The processes of developing an idea, a child and a flower are similar in thought. There is a lot that happens before we see the beautiful emergence. We have a general idea of what to expect based on the people involved, but we will not know for sure until it happens. I feel that is the beauty and mystery of casting visions – seeing what develops.

We must keep populating the world with people, the fields with flowers and the church with ideas for us to continue to exist. I look forward to leading us into what God has for this body of Christ because we are pregnant with possibilities. The old saying is, "April showers bring May flowers." Let us shower the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness so that we can birth beauty in the months to come.

Enjoy your Mothers, Mothers-to-Be and Mothering Spirit Day!

Blessings,
~~ Pastor

STAFF CHANGES IN THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Staff changes in the Southern Region of our Conference were recently announced. Annapolis District Superintendent Evan Young is rotating off of the appointive cabinet in accordance with the Discipline. He will be joining Discipleship Ministries in Nashville, Tennessee, to equip the global church for disciple-making. Our District Superintendent, Rebecca Iannicelli, will cover both the Washington East and Annapolis Districts from April 13 through June 30, 2019. Then on July 1, 2019, Rev. Iannicelli will become the permanent District Superintendent for the Annapolis District, and begin serving as the Dean of the Cabinet.

Our new superintendent in the Washington East District will be Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman. District Administrators Christol Medley (Washington East) and Willine Kamara (Annapolis) will retain their current district assignments.



In an email sent to constituents in the Washington East District on April 10th, Rev. Iannicelli shared her thoughts on these changes: "In the next few months, [Rev. Cogman and I] will be working together as part of our transition, and I truly look forward to being in partnership with her on the Southern Region. My dear friends, the highlight of these past six years has been to come alongside you, getting to know you as faithful family in Christ. Together, we have stretched and grown in our understanding of missional discipleship, and I believe that we have ministered together to the glory of God. You will always occupy a special spot in my heart, and there has never been a day when I didn't praise and thank God for you. At this time of change, I am so glad that I am only moving "next door," and we will still see each other at our regional events.

To celebrate the ministry of Rev. Iannicelli, the District Superintendent, the District Superintendent Committee is planning a Farewell Celebration of Service for her on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at the Charles County Fair Grounds (8440 Fairground Road, La Plata, MD 20646). Festivities will begin at 3PM. Please let the church office know if you would like to attend, so that we can give the planners an estimate of how many will be attending from our church.

Cogman appointed Washington East Superintendent

Posted by Melissa Lauber on Apr 15, 2019, www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views
(edited to fit into the allotted space)



If you want to know the real Johnsie Cogman, watch her direct a gospel choir. Heart and soul, she leans into the music, abandons herself to the Spirit and calls forth beauty, joy, suffering, and redemption. It's glory come to life. In July, the Rev. Johnsie Cogman will be taking those same instincts for collaborative leadership and applying them to her new appointment as superintendent of the Washington East District.

Cogman admits that she tends to address life and ministry "whole-heartedly" and with a smile. The smile is intentional, she said; a way of addressing the world with joy. Cogman doesn't take that joy for granted. At times, in fact, it means more to her because it was forged in a refiner's fire crafted from a series of tragic circumstances.

Before entering the ministry, she worked as an officer in the US Air Force. At every assignment, from Michigan to Japan to Delaware to the D.C. area, she served with the base chaplain, directing the choir and providing pastoral care to service members and their families. In that service, she began to sense a call to ministry, but wore out a lot of running shoes running from her calling, she said.

Part of the reason for her running was anger. It began in 1986, with the death of her adopted mother. Two years later, she ended her marriage to an abusive husband. And less than a month later, her three-year-old son Stevie died. Two years after that, her biological father, whom she had gotten close to, died. Then her newborn daughter Bianca died.

Two years after that, her twin sons, Jacob and James were born. They have grown to be exceptional young men. But when they were young, Cogman was diagnosed with stage-3 breast cancer. One of her friends was also diagnosed with cancer around the same time. "She's not here anymore, but I am," Cogman said.

This incident, and God's continual and insistent call upon her life, nudged her "to want to bring some joy," she said. "When you see so much evil, hurt and sadness in the world, people need to see my joy," she said. "They don't need to know my story, but I hope my story – and my smile – connects with theirs."

The same day that Cogman's father died, in 1990, she was scheduled to speak at a Toastmaster's competition. She was representing her district and felt like she would let people down if she cancelled. Her speech was on power. She called on God, asking for the courage to do what she needed to do. She delivered the speech and won.

She also heard God that day.

"I heard God clear as day," she said. "God said, 'I told you to inspire people with my words, not your words. So now, go.'"

She did, but she also placed demands on God to show her signs of God's presence. Each time, she said, and even today, "God continues to show God's self. God is doing remarkable things."

One of these remarkable things is the way her twin sons, who are now finishing up their theological studies, have answered their own distinct calls and are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Another remarkable and beautiful part of her life is her relationship with her husband, Billy. "I could not be without him," she said.

Cogman also sees God's hand in her being chosen to serve in this new capacity in the district in which she started her ministry in The United Methodist Church. Cogman has served Zion Wesley UMC in Waldorf; Bells UMC in Camp Springs; and Mt Zion UMC in Georgetown.

She is excited about the possibilities of working with the clergy and laity of the Washington East District and discovering the many ways they can, working collaboratively, ensure that churches are vital to the community and making disciples in creative and innovative ways.

What's Happening in United Methodist Women

By Ernie Kilbourne



United
Methodist
Women

The Rummage Sale, which was held on April 6th, brought us \$1,000, which was pretty good, considering that it was a beautiful day and other events were being held in the community.

Plan to come to the Ladies Communion Breakfast on May 11th, 2019. Communion Service will be held in the Sanctuary. After Communion, we will have a party to celebrate 150 years of UMW and we will "Party like it's 1869!" Breakfast will consist of a menu from 1869.

Ladies of all ages are invited, so bring your friends. Prices for breakfast are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 2-8 years old, and free for children younger than 2.

The General Meeting on June 15th also will be special, with Debbie McNitt hosting. Please put that on your calendar: June 15th, 2019, at 12:00 Noon.

Trustees Announce Wish List

By Todd Reitzel



The EUMC Trustees have identified a number of items that, given joyfully, would further our congregation's work and the mission of the Church:

- An instant water heater for the kitchen and adjacent bathrooms;
- 3 picnic tables to replace the old ones outside the Fellowship Hall;
- Cameras for a security system.

If you are interested in donating one or more of these items, please notify the church office so that the Trustees can share more details with you.

Also, if anyone is willing to donate welding services to repair the church grills, please notify the church office.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

By Ilene Forsbacka, Health and Wellness Coordinator



If you have a mental health condition, you are not alone. One in 5 American adults experiences some form of mental illness in any given year. Across the population, 1 in every 25 adults is living with a serious mental health condition, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or long-term recurring major depression.

Many people don't seek treatment or are unaware that their symptoms could be connected to a mental health condition. There are widespread misunderstandings and misperceptions about mental illness. People overcome the challenges of mental illness through developing and following a treatment plan. Mental illness can slow us down, but we don't need to let it stop us.

Do you know that there are two support groups that meet at Emmanuel? One is for Bipolar Disorder and Depression, and the other is for substance abuse.

Information was taken from "Living With A Mental Health Condition," National Alliance on Mental Illness

"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

Safe Sanctuary

By Ann Rowland, Safe Sanctuary Coordinator



At Emmanuel, we are committed to safeguarding our children and youth from sexual misconduct or any other form of emotional or physical harm/abuse.

Persons who wish to do children harm are often drawn to teaching or volunteering in schools, churches and activities that include children. For that reason, we specify in our Safe Sanctuary Policy that anyone desiring to work with minors must be known to the church for at least six months. Background checks are performed on Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teachers, nursery caregivers, youth leaders, chaperones and any other persons working with children and youth. Additionally, these same persons complete a Sexual Misconduct Questionnaire annually that requires three character references. Glass observation windows were intentionally installed in each classroom door to further protect minors from harmful conduct.

We affirm to the Baltimore-Washington Conference each year that we are in compliance with the Conference's Safe Sanctuary requirements and Emmanuel's Safe Sanctuary Policy, but a policy can only go so far to protect our young people. We, as parents, guardians, teachers, church leaders and members of the congregation, have a shared responsibility to do all we can to keep children and youth out of harm's way. For example, a person sitting near the back of the church who observes a young child leaving the sanctuary unaccompanied might step out and watch for his or her safe return.

The doors to the church remain unlocked on Sunday mornings during the services to welcome worshipers. Because the doors are unlocked, it is possible that someone could walk in one door and out another during worship without being noticed. For that reason we need to be extra vigilant, especially during the service when everyone is in worship, and not naively think that because we are a church, the hallway outside the Sanctuary and other areas are always safe places.

While we do have safety measures in place to minimize risk, let's keep the conversation going, never letting our guard down, when considering the safety and well-being of Emmanuel's children and youth.

The SECRET SISTER REVEAL will be on Saturday, June 15 at the UMW General Meeting



We are asking that you get a cute card to reveal yourself, address the envelope to the sister you were assigned, and sign your name on the inside of the card, revealing who you are this past year. If you can't come, please put a card for her in the white secret sister basket prior to the UMW General Meeting on Saturday, June 15th.

Want to be a Secret Sister for 2018-2019?

If you would like to participate in the Secret Sister activities this coming year, please fill out a Secret Sister information form. Forms will be available in the hallway outside the Sanctuary starting Sunday, June 9. Please call Karen Mackey, the Secret Sister Coordinator, with any questions or concerns. You can reach Karen at 301-937-3324 (home) or 301-646-4192 (cell). If you are not able to come to church on Saturday, June 15th, let Karen know and she will pick a Secret Sister for you.

Join the fun! Be a SECRET SISTER!

FROM THE EDITOR, Bobbie Deegan:

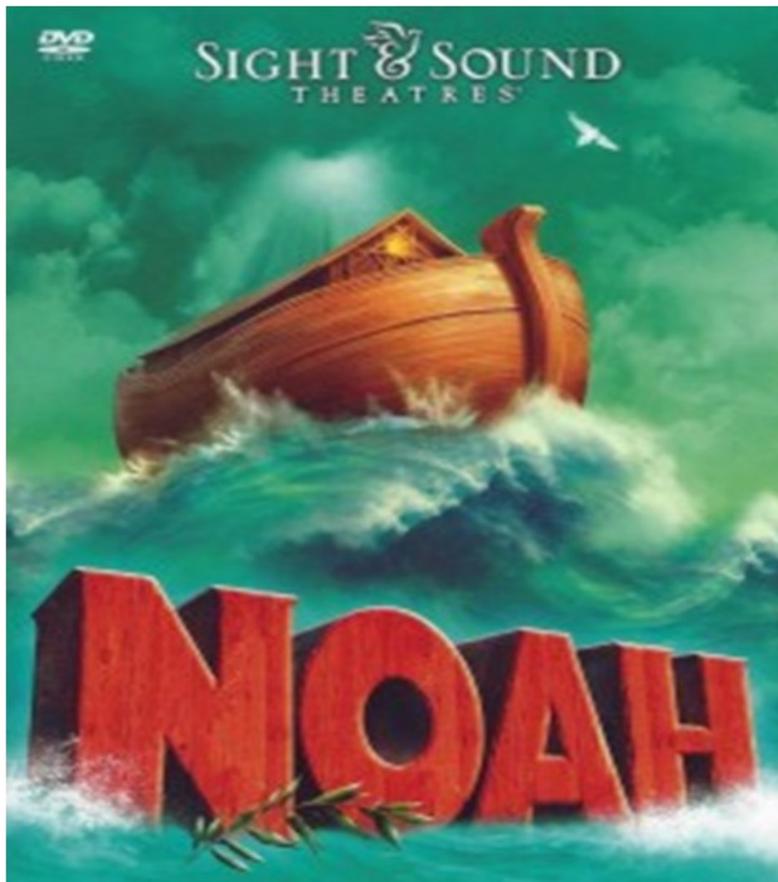
Yes, *The Lamplighter* is very late this month! Everyone did a great job getting their articles in on time; the delay is entirely due to the fact that I have too many commitments competing for the same hours.

Will your schedule allow you to help get *The Lamplighter* out each month? Better yet, are you willing to take over the editorship? It's not hard — it just takes a block of time in the middle of the month that I am finding it harder and harder to create. Please let the church office know if you can help out—301-937-7114.

***UMW General Meeting – Movie and Munchies
All are Welcome!***

Saturday, June 15 — Noon, Fellowship Hall

***Come see the Musical Production
“NOAH”***



Travel with Noah as he fulfills God's command, amid impossible odds and the scrutiny of onlookers. Experience this extraordinary Bible story as it comes to life in jaw-dropping scale as Noah leads live animals inside the Ark – with sets towering four stories above the stage! Filmed before a live audience, escape the treacherous flood with your family as you become immersed in this incredible production

Sandwiches, munchies and beverages will be available free.

Please RSVP to the church office: 301-937-7114

ALTAR FLOWERS

- May 5 —
- May 12 — Susan Gallo
- May 19 —
- May 26 — Dottie Gilbert



The FLOWER CHART is posted in the hallway next to the mailboxes at the end of the hall. Altar flowers are \$30. When you sign up, please fill out a Flower Request Form and leave it in the office mailbox. **Indicate on the form whether you will take the flowers home or leave them for a shut-in.** (Flowers that you take home are not tax-deductible). Thank you.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1. Joelle Onukwubiri
5. Pam Midkiff
6. Joel Tyler
8. Susan Gallo, Emmy Lear
12. Megan McNitt
13. Nancy Thrush, Jason Kresge
14. Diane Embrey
17. Scarlet Robertson, Doris Shirey
19. Kevin Kresge
20. JoAnne Blakley
22. Nancy McNealy, Roy White
23. Karl Norris
29. Preston Gregory, Sr.
30. Darwin Aguilera



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 this QR instead.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

4. Lynne & Robert Miller
6. Karen & James Mackey
15. Nancy & Michael McNealy



BE A GREETER OR SCRIPTURE READER!

Help make Emmanuel a friendly, welcoming congregation! Share the Word of the Lord!

To volunteer to cover one or more Sundays as a **Greeter** or **Scripture Reader**, please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Sanctuary.

No experience necessary — we will train!

IN MEMORIAM

Christian love and sympathy to:

- Sue Leatherman and family on the death of her husband, Charles, on April 23rd.



May the Holy Spirit comfort this family and all who are grieving.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

GUESTS visiting Emmanuel on one or more Sundays in March included:

Sampson Djan Amoako

We welcome you to our church family! Please worship with us again soon.

HAVE A SUGGESTION OR AN ARTICLE TO SHARE?

Email editor Bobbie Deegan at BobbieDeegan@aol.com, or phone her at [301-937-7070](tel:301-937-7070). Contributions are always welcome!

For those who were wondering—

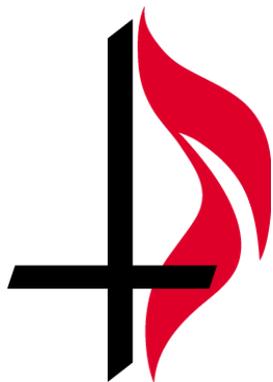
The congregation collected \$474.99 for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Thanks to all who donated to this very worthy cause.

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 7pm Bible Study	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 5pm NA
<i>5</i> 9 & 11:15am Worship 10:15am Sunday School, Bible Study 12:45pm Chancel Choir	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 7pm ESOL	<i>8</i> 7pm Bible Study	<i>9</i> 7pm Trustees	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9am UMW Communion Breakfast 5pm NA
<i>12</i> MOTHER'S DAY 9 & 11:15am Worship 10:15am Sunday School, Bible Study 12:30pm Youth Fellowship	<i>13</i> 7pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>14</i> 10am Prayer Fellowship 7pm ESOL	<i>15</i> 10am Susanna Wesley Circle 7pm Bible Study	<i>16</i> 12 Noon Ellen Hoover Circle	<i>17</i> 11am Community Place Caf�	<i>18</i> 5pm NA
<i>19</i> 9 & 11:15am Worship 10:15am Sunday School, Bible Study 12:45pm Chancel Choir BELTSVILLE DAY Noon—4pm Beltsville Community Center	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 7pm Sisters in Spirit Circle	<i>22</i> 7pm Bible Study	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 8am Food Distribution — Seniors 10am Food Distribution — General Public 5pm NA
<i>26</i> 9 & 11:15am Worship 10:15am Sunday School, Bible Study 12:30pm Youth Fellowship 12:45pm Chancel Choir	<i>27</i> MEMORIAL DAY Church Office CLOSED 7pm Depression/ Bipolar Support Group	<i>28</i> 10am Prayer Fellowship	<i>29</i> 7pm Bible Study Annual Conference	<i>30</i> 7pm Church Council Annual Conference	<i>31</i> Annual Conference	

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