

DAVIDSONVILLE UMC
LAMPLIGHTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*But now, says the Lord—the one who created you, Jacob,
the one who formed you, Israel:
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine. (Isa. 43:1)*

The Chosen

We are trying something new this winter. Our worship and study will be inspired by the movie and TV series *The Chosen* (Season 1). *The Chosen* is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings.

The Chosen is one of the most-watched shows in the world. Currently Season 4 is showing in the theaters, but we are starting with Season 1 and that is available on Netflix and free on the app from Angel Studios. Casey will send a link each week for the episode we will explore in worship. Studies are being offered Sunday afternoons at 12:30 PM around the table in the church office and at the Women's Wednesdays study group following at 9:30 AM, same location.

In our culture where belief in God is declining, this series is peaking people's interest and inspiring them to ask questions. By going deeper into the scriptures and faith themes of the movie, I thought it would give us a common language to speak with our neighbors and friends who don't have a faith community.

Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications - although it says even more about the Chooser than the choose-ees. We are loved because He's love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because he invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation.



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Our Purpose:



**Knowing,
Loving, &
Serving God
and Others In
Unity**

I hope that you participate by watching the movie, and engaging in worship and study with us. You can purchase the companion study books for deeper learning, although not required. They are available through the office and on Amazon.

As one of our small group leaders noted, "We are looking forward to this Bible Study that is sure to deepen your faith and increase your knowledge in a new and exciting way. This is a powerful series and God is changing people's lives thru it."

Blessings
Pastor Wendy van Vliet

Advent Season



We had the Gift of Hope, the Gift of Joy, the Gift of Peace, the Gift of Love, and the Gift of Light each week of Advent!
Thank you to our volunteers!

Christmas Cantata with Galesville UMC



Christmas Eve



Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays



CCDC is looking for staff!
Please email a resume to
crdirector@crossroadscdc.com

Happy New Year! CCDC is grateful for another wonderful year! We had a successful Christmas Pageant and we thank the staff and the children for a marvelous job!

We are so grateful for generous church members, Bob and Dixie Doyle, for bringing so much joy to CCDC as Santa and Mrs. Claus. And thanks to Jackie Wallander for setting up that special visit up for us.

Again a big Thanks for your continued support!

We are still hiring and still have 4 current openings for children.



This winter, **DUMC Kids & Youth Group** enjoyed meaningful activities centered on fellowship and service. Here is a recap of how we've spread joy, hope, and stayed engaged this season:

- Bowling at Annapolis Bowl: Our children were excited to strike up some fun with fellowship and friendly competition.
- Movie Night & Parents' Night Out: Dressed in cozy and festive pajamas, the children watched Illumination's *The Grinch* and enjoyed popcorn and good laughs. Throughout the night, the children also created holiday cards for those in Memory Care at Brightview Senior Living. Parents were welcomed to stay and enjoy the movie or enjoy the night out.
- Christmas Cantata with Galesville UMC: Our DUMC youth and Galesville UMC youth came together for a special Christmas Musical Celebration.
- Christmas Pageant: Angels, shepherds, Wiseman, and a star! What a joy it was to see even our youngest children spread the message of faith and the good news! With Christmas carols and readings from our children, this year's pageant was uplifting and a blessing to us all!

We are so grateful to everyone who participated, volunteered, and contributed to making each of our winter activities a memorable experience for our children. Stay tuned for more events as we continue to fellowship, serve, and grow!



Dear Bues,

Sometimes the best plans just don't quite materialize. Like this afternoon, I sat down to the computer for my last "Hi y'all" for 2023 with the full intention of starting with "People get ready, there's a train a'coming." I went to YouTube to listen to the Curtis Mayfield rendition to put me "in the mood", and immediately my eyes were drawn to a new talk presented by Priscilla Shirer entitled "I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM", and the train left without me.



Now, in case you didn't know, Priscilla is a very powerful motivational speaker, and she did not disappoint. But the reason I was drawn into listening to that talk at this time was because In Exodus 3:14 God says to Moses "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" In John 8:58, Jesus says "Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!", identifying himself as the very same I AM. I very recently studied John, Chapter 8, and I felt I HAD to hear what she had to say.

Priscilla brought up three instances in the Old Testament where the Angel of the Lord appeared to three different individuals who needed to be reminded that they were not victims of circumstance. Imagine, the God of the Universe, the God of Heaven and Earth. He who orchestrates everything that happens everywhere took the time to recalibrate these three identities, and why did he do that? He did that because you are who God says you are! I AM who God says I AM!

I fully believe that God wanted me to pass along this message. Having done so, the train is still picking up passengers from coast to coast. You don't need a ticket, you just thank the Lord.

Are you ready?

Peace and love, Connie

GriefShare

Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Wednesdays 6:30 PM
March 6 - May 29
Davidsonville UMC, 410-798-5511
819 W Central Avenue
dumcoffice@dumc.net

griefshare.org

March 6 - May 29
Wednesdays
from 6:30 PM - 8 PM
Davidsonville UMC office
\$20 for the
participant book
Register at
griefshare.org

Church Calendar



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Taghi Modarressi Center for Infant Study

ATTACHMENT Vitamins

Come join this 10 week intervention group to support you as Caregivers! Here you will learn about the development of your little ones from the ages of infancy to 6, understand the impact of stress and trauma on children and reflect on your little ones behavior building a secure and safe attachment.

Focus topics:

- Parenting Knowledge of Emotional Development and Child Individual Differences
- Emotional Attunement
- Mindfulness
- Executive Functioning
- Reflective Functioning

When: Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Where: Zoom
Time: 5-6:30pm

Contact Rebecca Sellman, LMSW at 443-786-0267 for more information!

Scan here to register

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
PEDIATRICS, FA
at MIDDLETOWN

NCTSN HealthStems



Parenting Class - Becca Sellman will be starting a 10-week parent/ caregiver group, Attachment Vitamins. The group will begin on **January 9, 2024, from 5 PM - 6:30 PM**. We will try to narrow it down to 5 weeks, 2x a week depending on what participants are more comfortable with. On the flyer, there are specific details that will support participants with registering for the group.

Here is what we will be covering, briefly: Parents and caregivers will learn about the development of their little one from the ages of infancy to 6. Caregivers will understand the impact of stress and trauma on children and reflect on their little one's experiences and the possible meaning of the child's behaviors, promoting and building a secure and safe attachment.

Register on EventBrite!

United Women of Faith - The next UMW meeting is **Saturday, January 13 at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall and all women of the church are invited.

DUMC Kids & Youth - The kids are going ice skating! Join us on **Saturday, February 3 at 1 PM** at the Bowie Ice Arena for a fun afternoon! Talk to Tiffany for more information!



Save the Date:

- Pancake Tuesday is **February 13**. Dinner is being planned!
- Palm Sunday is **March 24** and there will be an egg hunt for the kids.
- Easter is **March 31** and we will have a sunrise service, a 9 AM service, and an 11 AM service.



Great Night Out - Mark your calendars for the music and storytelling of Mark Cable. We will be offering a *Great Night Out* on **Saturday, March 16**. Ticket prices have not yet been set, but you can be prepared to have a good belly laugh as you listen to Mark share the gospel with music and humor.

This fun event is a laid-back coffeehouse style evening with plenty of great music, stories, laughter and hope. Typically the night consists of two sets of music and comedy with an intentional dessert break in the middle for folks to interact and relax.



Social Needs & Outreach had a very busy year with our blood drives, senior luncheon, backpacks, helping with breakfast club. Thanks to everyone's help, we made 20 Thanksgiving baskets, supplied Christmas presents for many children through our Angel tree, the Christmas shoe boxes, and helping other families with needed assistance. With extra food from Thanksgiving, we were also able to help Bethany Air with their baskets.



Sunshine Committee - Thank you to everyone who helped make sandwiches and lunches for Linda's Legacy this year! And thank you to everyone who donated and helped build toiletry kits for the homeless as well! You are all blessings!



My Star Word Was "Deliberate" - What Does That Mean?

Pastor Wendy's Retirement Letter

As an adjective "deliberate" describes something that is intentional or done with great care. It is the opposite of impulsive. As a verb it means to engage in long careful consideration. I have been deliberating over my retirement for about a year. I absolutely love the people of Davidsonville UMC and surrounding community which made this discernment very difficult. The past seven plus years have been amazing. Together we have been making a positive impact in people's lives.

After prayerful consideration, I have decided that God is calling me to a new season of life. The poet Ecclesiastes wrote, "There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens: a time for giving birth and a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted." (Ecc. 3:1-2) I am ready to be uprooted from this community to be planted in another place for the next season of life. I am looking forward to making a positive impact in the lives of those who are closest to me, my husband, children, and grandchildren.

I have communicated deliberately with our District Superintendent Rev. Sarah Schlieckert so that the Bishop and Cabinet can prepare well for sending you your next pastor. They have listened carefully to your passion for ministry to young families, sharing the gospel one bite at a time, and offering HUGS; hope, understanding and grief support. The process of deciding who might serve Davidsonville UMC next is complicated. Patience will be needed as we wait for the Cabinet's decision. And we are not just going to sit around as we wait. We will continue with vigor to reach out to our community so that people continue to Know, Love, and Serve God and Others in Unity. My retirement doesn't start until until July 1, 2024, and I will be running the race with endurance until then.

John Wesley developed a prayer that he expected pastors and congregations to pray each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal promises. The Covenant Prayer describes a life deliberately devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. The line resonating with me this year is - "Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee." I am preparing to be laid aside for a new season, retirement - but not until July!

What message do you hear as you consider your star word and pray again the Wesley Covenant Prayer?

"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."



Blessings – Your Sister in Christ – Pastor Wendy van Vliet

3 WAYS TO GIVE



Giving Envelopes

Give by cash or check with in worship
Sunday mornings



Online Giving

Give a one time gift or set recurring donations on our website: DUMC.net



Text Giving

Text \$(desired amount) to 410-324-6399 to give via text message

Submit a joy or concern online:

www.dumc.net/prayer



January

- 1 - Cade Clurman
- 3 - Melissa Attenberger
- 4 - Andrew Blair-Stanek
- 8 - Margie Norris
- 10 - Susan Hopkins
- 12 - Don Shankle
- 12 - Morgan Carr
- 14 - Terri Joya
- 14 - Lisa Niemann
- 16 - Wendy Miller
- 16 - John Moore
- 17 - Ed Hall
- 18 - Sara Attenberger
- 18 - Barbara Stecher
- 20 - Brecken Baur
- 21 - Tara Pierru
- 24 - Vassie Hollamon
- 24 - Hannah Hollamon
- 24 - Katie Jacobs
- 28 - Tyler Egbert
- 28 - Jean Manahan
- 30 - LeeAnn Monaghan
- 30 - Rhonda Ostis
- 31- Blee Mahaffey

Feburary

- 1 - Christina Carr
- 2 - Steve Klein
- 5 - Patricia Stevenson
- 6 - Joshua Attenberger
- 9 - Gwen Purcell
- 9 - Caroline Wallander
- 10 - Dan Colacicco
- 11 - Chloe Burgess
- 11 - Anna Wallander
- 12 - Olivia Robertson
- 13 - Tim Hopkins
- 13 - Gene Wasson
- 16 - Annette Graves
- 17 - Bill King
- 18 - Deb Angevine
- 18 - Carol Chell
- 18 - Kim Vincent
- 20 - Joseph O'Neill
- 22 - Jason Clurman
- 24 - Lisa Alexander
- 24 - Georgia McArdle
- 27 - Casey Duley
- 29 - Carmen Tartaglia



1/11 - Adam & Betty Schmitt
2/14 - Lisa & Joe Niemann



Obituary for David Stevenson II

David Gordon Stevenson II was born in DC on January 19, 1966 to his father David, Sr. and mother Carole.

In his youth, David pitched baseball in grade school, played lacrosse, and was good at skateboarding. He liked being in the water, pools and beaches. During his teens, he gravitated to rock 'n' roll, and he masterfully played on his drums.

David's father mentored him after high school, and he became a meticulous hardwood and ceramic flooring professional.

David II became a father to his son David III in May 1986. David III had two boys and a girl, which made David II a grandfather.

David passed away peacefully on December 27, 2023. He is survived by his sister Gretchen, stepmother Patricia and step-siblings Briana and Kyle, plus 3 half siblings Valarie, Mike and Debbie. He was loved by all and will be dearly missed.

Davidsonville United Methodist Church

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**Submission of material for the Lamplighter does not guarantee publication and is subject to editing.*

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