

DAVIDSONVILLE UMC
LAMPLIGHTER

MARCH/APRIL 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What Are You Up To?

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." — Mark 8: 31-38

Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in His name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.

The congregation will be "up to something good" in a number of ways:

Morning Prayer on Zoom - every Mon. and Wed. at 8:30 AM

GriefShare - beginning March 6

New Wed. Bible Study focused on the Book of Matthew starting March 20 at 9:30 AM

A Great Night Out - March 16, 7 PM

Red Cross Blood Drive - March 21, 1 PM

Easter Egg Hunt - March 23, 9:30 AM

Sonrise service Easter morning, 6:30 AM

Cantata on Easter at 9 AM and 11 AM

Plus - I would love to hear stories about what you have been up to personally. Being "up to something" doesn't have to be anything big, or life-changing, or unnecessarily piled onto an already-busy schedule. I just want to know about your faithful seeing and prayerful living.

During this Lenten series we will be creating visual installations in our worship spaces for which you are invited to add uplifting messages. You may write your messages on the little hot air balloon cards provided. They will be collected during the offering and added to the displays. I really want to know what you're UP to so we can celebrate God's work together!

Blessings - Pastor Wendy



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Our Purpose:

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





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Welcome, Mei!

Mei Cobb started as Music Director in January 2024. She has been a long-time member of Davidsonville United Methodist Church along with her husband and children.

She serves on a variety of boards and is an accompanist for local schools, students, and music programs. She sings with Live Arts Maryland in the Annapolis Chorale, the Annapolis Chamber Chorus, and Cantori.

Mei has been a substitute pianist/organist at a variety of churches as she and her family moved across the country including in Wisconsin, Florida, California, and now Maryland. She performed with the big band "In The Mood," singing and playing piano for many years. A band started by her older brother and in which all of her brothers and her father played. She has performed in numerous plays and musicals and has served as the music director and accompanist for many productions as well. She studied piano at the Milwaukee Conservatory of Music and sang in choral groups at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

In addition to music, she currently serves on the Volunteer Groups Alliance (VGA), a global coalition of volunteer involving organizations at the United Nations that promote and amplify the role of volunteers in achieving the sustainable development agenda. She is an advisor to the UN Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR) program advocating on behalf of volunteers and volunteer involving organizations. Mei also serves on the Maryland Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

She has consulted and trained in 40 countries and is a champion for the role volunteers play in creating and sustaining change. Globally she helped develop Pro Vobis, the national volunteer center in Romania and worked in the United Arab Emirates to develop its first national volunteer program, Takatof.

Mei most recently led Volunteer Engagement at United Way Worldwide. Throughout her career Mei has developed systems to effectively inspire and engage individuals who seek to change lives and communities through service and worked with leaders in the private, public and social sectors to establish and grow their volunteer programs.

Mei is excited to partner with all of our members and the community to grow the music program at Davidsonville United Methodist Church.



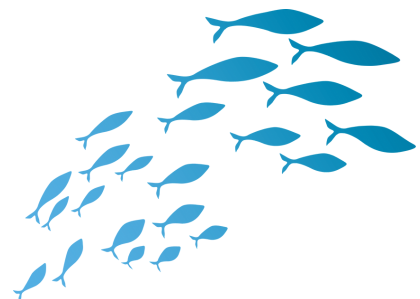
HAPPY
Retirement!



Pastor Wendy is retiring at the end of June 2024, and will preach her last sermon on Sunday, June 30. DUMC is going to come together to give her a great celebration of 8 years of inspired and dedicated service **by having a dinner at the church at 5:30 PM on Saturday, June 29.** Please save the date. The church will be supplying the main course, and we will be looking for contributions for sides and desserts. Please think of stories that you would like to share with Pastor Wendy and the congregation. More details will be supplied as the date draws nearer.



Making fish for *The Chosen* series & Altar Call/ Anointing



Dear Church,

First of all, I apologize that I haven't been in touch before now. Both of us had COVID while we moved. After we recovered, we hit the ground running with a new church to serve and grandchildren to corral. We really love being next door to them, all of us on the same 15 acre property.

Words alone can never express all that DUMC means to me. You were unwaveringly present during all my hospitalizations in 2022-23, and your compassion and provision pulled me through. I deeply regret not being able to be there on November 5, but, being so sick, my presence wasn't practical. Still, your financial generosity and your sweet notes and cards meant the world to me. I reread them often.

I've never been a part of a more compassionate, praying church than yours. I'm so grateful that we had 3 years together. I wish it could have been more!

I love you dearly, and miss you, and love keeping up with you on Facebook and the weekly emails! Please know that I continue to pray for you and the ministry of DUMC! You're making a difference for Jesus in the world!

You are loved.



Grace and Peace,
Paul



Spring is almost here! We have had a busy February! The children enjoyed our Valentine's Party and CrossRoads is planning to have Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th.

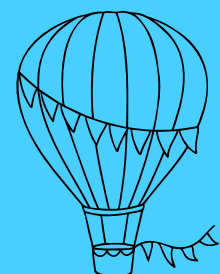
If anyone would like to donate plastic Easter eggs, please contact the office.

We look forward to warmer weather to enjoy more outdoor fun!



Come Up

We are called to come up out of the depths of whatever seeks to keep us under and to know that we are beloved of God. Come up, for now is the time to be fully who you are created to be for the sake of the world. The world needs what you have to give, needs what you are "up to" as a fully alive and passionate human.





We would like to give a big welcome to Janet who will be serving primarily in our Sunday school and nursery. Janet has run and operated a licensed childcare for over 20 years. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education and is in her second school year working at Shady Side Elementary school as a Long-Term Substitute. Janet has always enjoyed caring for and working with children of all ages and loves spending time with her family and friends. We are blessed to have Janet serve our DUMC youth group and families!

So far this year, the **DUMC Kids & Youth Group** has gone ice skating in Bowie and enjoyed time together, volunteered to work at the Pancake Supper by handing out food, and made fish to hang on the windows of the Fellowship Hall to go with our *Chosen* series! We also said a heartfelt goodbye to Becca and gave a warm welcome to our new nursery worker, Janet Williams. Coming soon: Sports Night on May 4th! And then Vacation Bible School June 17 - 21! Stay tuned!



Social Needs met on February 15:

- So far this year we have helped 8 families through Outreach.
- Debby Wasson will have a group meet at her house on April 15 at 2 PM to make sandwiches for Lighthouse Shelter.
- The next blood drive will be March 21 from 1 to 6 PM, then again on June 7 and November 23.
- Senior luncheon will be April 18 at 12 PM!
- The food pantry in the parking lot needs more people knowing about it - Through word of mouth and social media. We will work on spreading the word and hope that you will continue to keep it stocked!
- Pastor Sara from Joy Reigns will be at our March 14, 4 PM meeting to discuss their *Journey to Joy House*, women in recovery and their children live there. We are Interested in helping provide assistance to them.



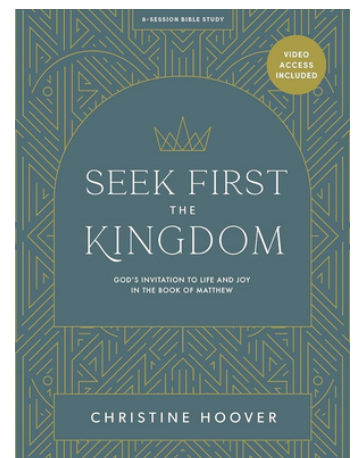
Up and Coming

To be “up and coming” is to be on the rise, to be getting attention and becoming known for something. This up phrase invites us to see the potential of each person we meet as “up and coming” in their own unique way. Who in your life is up to something good that you want to celebrate?



Though we deliver toiletry kits for the homeless in December, it is actually an ongoing project! There is a container outside the Fellowship Hall, one behind the pews in the Sanctuary, and one on the porch of the office. When you go to the dentist, you can ask for an extra toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss! When you visit hotels, collect soap, shampoos and conditioners, and lotions! We also collect ChapStick, small combs, small deodorant, and hand sanitizers. Please donate what you can!

The Wednesday morning Bible study group will be starting a new book on March 20. They meet weekly on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the church office. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office or Carol Chell. All are welcome!





Dear Ones,

Many years ago when I first started breeding and showing boxers, I had a very knowledgeable mentor who told me that the longer I did this and the more I learned, the more I would realize how much I didn't know! Truer words have never been spoken, and they go far beyond the dog world!

You know, time is neither friend nor foe. It's a gift and you make of it what you can. Each new day is a new opportunity to learn, a new opportunity to meet new people, make friends, make memories and love one another. As we age, we draw more than we think from our memories. In fact, we start to draw from our yesterdays to be able to face our tomorrows. Did I just say that we start to live backwards?

When you have a birthday, people will ask you how does it feel to be ___? Well, gee, I've never been ___ before, so how do I know? What I do know is that I don't particularly like how it feels to be ___ but, maybe this IS what it feels to be ____! The more you know the more you know you need to know, ya know? You start to lose friends. Grief has new meaning when it becomes more than just a word. You get to know God more intimately, and this new intimacy is awesome, a gift that time gives you. I pray for you all that your hearts are open to receive the peace of God that Christ has given you through his resurrection. Hallelujah!! Christ is risen! Praise God!

Peace and love, Connie

Hello DUMC Singers and Musicians!

For those of you who don't know me, I have been assisting with the music ministry at DUMC since the fall of 2022. I have been working with Mei Cobb, our new music director, and I have two requests for all of you:

1. We are going to organize a Chancel Choir that would sing occasionally at the 11 am service. Our goal is to have this group perform at the 11 am service one Sunday each month. This is a group that we've had in the past, and it would be great to get it started up again! If you are interested in participating in Chancel Choir or have questions about this group, please let me know! Once I know who would like to participate, I will reach out to those individuals separately to discuss rehearsals.

2. We are also looking for people who would like to perform Special Music at either the 9 am or 11 am services. Individuals, small groups, large groups, instrumentalists- if you have any interest in performing something at one of our services, we would love to get you on the schedule! If you know you want to perform but don't have a piece of music in mind, or would like to sing with a small group but haven't approached anyone, I can help connect you with repertoire and other interested musicians. Please let me know if you are interested. I am excited to hear some new voices!!

Please reach out if you have any questions or need additional information. Thanks for your time!

Natalie Wren
nataliewren16@gmail.com
(208) 816-8548

Caught Up

How many times have you said to yourself, "when will I ever be caught up on everything I have to do?" Life can feel like a never-ending to-do list. Can you be up to about 30 minutes today that has absolutely nothing to do with the to-do's? What will you do that feels yummy and life-giving?





Church Calendar

GriefShare is March 6 - May 29. It will be on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM - 8 PM in the church office. It is \$20 for the participant book. Register online at griefshare.org using zip code 21035. Contact Pam Durbin or Karen Baker for more information!

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



Great Night Out - Get ready for the music and storytelling of Mark Cable. We will be offering a *Great Night Out* on **Saturday, March 16 at 7 PM**. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at worship or through the office. 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.

Tongues of Fire is preparing for its next BBQ sale! Our sale will be on Saturday, April 6 from 11 AM until 2 PM, or until food runs out! Don't miss out! Join us in our support of missions as we "Spread the Gospel, One Bite at a Time."



Davidsonville UMC

Easter
 SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31, 2024
 6:30 AM Sunrise Service in Green Cathedral
 9 AM & 11 AM Cantata

Kids Egg Hunt **March 23**
 9:30 AM Outside

Palm Sunday **March 24**
 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall
 11 AM in the Sanctuary

Holy Thursday **Service of Coming Darkness**
 March 28 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Good Friday **Open Sanctuary for time of reflective prayer**
 March 29 from 7 AM - 6 PM

What's UP - With the process of receiving a new pastor?

In the United Methodist Church the Bishop appoints qualified clergy to local churches and the whole itineracy process can feel like a mystery. But of course we have a method.

For the first time ever the conference publicly listed the churches, like ours, which clearly needed new pastors. This provided the opportunity for clergy wanting a new ministry, to tell the Bishop why they would be best suited to lead one of the open churches. The Bishop and the conference work hard to understand the nature of each local church and what they need. They read through charge conference and statistical reports, and the notes from the District Superintendent's (DS) visits with clergy and congregation. The DS came and listened to our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) last fall to hear their advice for a new appointment.

Right now we are waiting. The Bishop and Cabinet meet weekly to carefully match clergy and churches. They not only have to fill the churches where there have been retirements but also the churches of the clergy who move into the open pulpits. The appointment announcements are updated weekly on the BWCUMC.org - News - 2024 Appointments page. So far 17 appointments have been announced. The majority of appointments will be announced before the Annual Conference May 29-31.

One day soon our SPRC will receive a call with the news of our new pastor. Then there will be an opportunity for DUMC's key leaders to meet the pastor. There will be a training to guide the pastor and SPRC through the receiving process. Pastor Wendy will meet with the incoming pastor to exchange files and ministry information. The new pastor will work with staff to plan his/her first worship service on July 7th. He/She will begin to serve DUMC on July 1, 2024.

Pastor Wendy's last day will be Sunday June 30th. SPRC is planning a retirement party for Saturday June 29th at 5:30pm - see the information above.

When pastors leave a congregation they can't provide care to members for one year unless specifically invited to do so by the new pastor. They can not return to baptize, marry, bury, or counsel. Members are encouraged not to reach out to former pastors. Outgoing pastors are not involved in any ongoing ministries or plans SO THAT the incoming pastor can build solid relationships and trust with the congregation.

Change is challenging, but this method of appointing clergy to congregations has been effective for many, many decades. The Bishop and Cabinet will send us a highly qualified, time tested, energetic, loving pastor! All will be well.





March

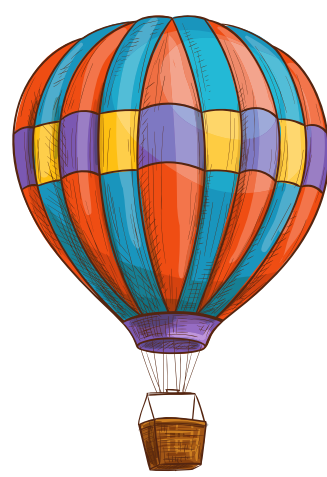
- 1 - Kathy Gabler
- 3 - Wendy van Vliet
- 8 - Barbara Emert
- 9 - Nancy Covington
- 9 - Cindy Wratchford
- 10 - Jessi Rolko
- 12 - Vonda Vales
- 14 - Shannon Price
- 15 - Kaitlyn Burgess
- 16 - Julien Pierru
- 17 - Kris Bisci
- 22 - Jenna Alexander
- 22 - Zachary Alexander
- 25 - Karen Baker
- 26 - Athena Wasson

April

- 2 - Emma Stanek
- 5 - Dixie Doyle
- 6 - David Attenberger
- 6 - Kalle Kontson
- 6 - Diana Schneider
- 7 - Bobby Baur
- 7 - Joe Niemann
- 7 - Jan Rolko
- 8 - Sarah Simpson
- 10 - Rob Gabler
- 10 - Steve Iannicelli
- 10 - Barbara Moore
- 14 - Carolyn Wilson
- 15 - Linnea Pierru
- 16 - Bonnie Campbell
- 21 - Gracie Egbert
- 22 - Mark Bowser
- 31 - Katie Bisci
- 24 - Cindy Buechling
- 24 - Jim Hopkins
- 25 - Joe Emert
- 27 - Dixon Wood
- 28 - Lisa Gardner-Wasson
- 29 - Bud Chell
- 29 - Arthur O'Neill

Submit a joy or concern online:
www.dumc.net/prayer

*~HAPPY~
Anniversary*
4/22 - Bob & Florence Ingram



Choked Up

We all get "choked up" about something. This is our body-mind-spirits letting us know that we're connected and caring. Researchers have shown that empathy is an essential part of living out a vital humanity. What moves you in this world?

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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