

DAVIDSONVILLE UMC  
**LAMPLIGHTER**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

**Welcome To My Front Porch**

I just changed the wreath on my front door again. The ring of butterflies was replaced by a ghoulish square of Barbie Halloween pink and black that matched my pumpkin. And now the signs and symbols of autumn grace my door.

Time on my porch restores my soul. Often, I take a break from my office to bask in the sunshine on the front porch and let the gentle breeze sweep away my worries, clearing my mind.

In the spring, your porch is the best spot to spy early blooms adding snippets of color to our awakening gardens. In the summer, it is where we connect with neighbors over tall glasses of lemonade. In the fall, it provides the background for back-to-school photos, pots of purple chrysanthemums, pumpkins, and kids in Halloween costumes. In the winter, it can be place of anticipation, as we wait to welcome friends inside, or it can be a launching zone for sending God's blessings out to share with others.

Dominique Seitz, contributor to *If A Porch Could Talk: Everyday Faith*, notes, "As the season change, so do we, and so do our joys and concerns. From barren winters to full summers, we experience the ups and downs as the winds change. But every season brings its own beauty to our lives. What we lose is outpaced by the wisdom and resilience we can gain, especially when our porches are a place of welcome and hospitality."

Our places of worship, our fellowship hall and sanctuary, are the porches of our faith. In these places we see the sprouts of new faith in our children, youth, and even adults. We connect with fellow believers, friends, family, and neighbors over coffee and donuts. We renew and deepen our relationship with God and rejoice that, throughout the ups and downs of life - God is with us. Sunday worship welcomes others into God's love and equips and sends us back out to minister in the world.



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**Our Purpose:**

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



The next two months include Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Advent with its hope, peace, joy and love, and Christmas. These moments are packed with intense feelings and strong memories that awaken people's need for God. I pray that our congregation is ready to welcome seekers with hospitality. I urge you to boldly invite people to experience God's love here in our church, in our place of worship and mission. May they find what they need as they join us for bowling, Red Cross Blood Drive, Kids' Movie Night/Parents' Night Out, a community Cantata, or as they pick up their thanksgiving baskets, receive angel tree gifts or operation Christmas child boxes, or as they simply worship with us on Sundays.

A front porch says, "Come and stay a while. Make yourself at home. Enjoy the stillness of the morning, the glow of the afternoon and the exhale of the evening." May our porch also say, "You are not alone. God is present here. You are welcome here. You are loved."

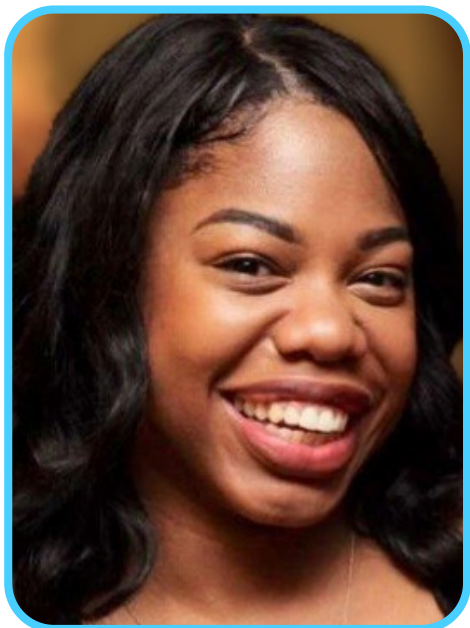
### Scriptures for the Season

*The grass withers and the flower fades, but  
the word of God will stand forever.*  
Isaiah 40:8 ESV

*For everything there is a season, and a time  
for every matter under the sun.*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for  
at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we  
do not give up.*  
Galatians 6:9 NIV

*Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is  
God's will for you who belong to Christ.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT



### *Welcome, Tiffany, our new Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries!*

After graduating from South River HS in Edgewater, Tiffany received her Bachelor of Science in biology from Howard University. She has many years of experience in building youth centered, educational, and non-profit programs and events. Tiffany has always enjoyed fostering a love of learning and empowering others. When not planning programs, Tiffany spends time with her family and enjoys planning or going to fun activities with her husband and two children. She also loves hiking, crafting, and reading.

# A Farewell to Pastor Paul



**You don't teach music.  
You teach people.**

**You don't conduct choral music. You  
conduct people to sing choral music.**



Early in Paul's music ministry, a mentor taught him the importance of focusing on people and relationships. This principal became ingrained in his very being. As he said on his application resume, "Compassion for each individual, personal integrity, and commitment to excellence help each person in an ensemble to connect in worship of God and create unforgettable musical experiences together." Worship of God and unforgettable musical experiences have been Paul's gift to our congregation.

I am grateful for Pastor Paul's decades of experience. When we sit down to plan for future seasons, his collaboration is wonderful. He is openminded and has great ideas for making the gospel come alive through word and song. He is adaptive. Do you remember Drive In Worship when the service was broadcasted through the FM station on your car radios and Paul played the keyboard under the fire escape? He had handwarmers in his mittens to keep his fingers limber for the keys!

Pastor Paul gets on well with all people, and children are his special delight. As chaplain for our CrossRoads children, he has helped them grow in body, mind, and spirit with his one sentence gospel lessons and the many joyful songs he taught.

I am very sad that Pastor Paul is moving. He also grieves leaving. But I am, we both are, grateful to God for the next stage of his calling. Paul has a heart for God. He has been called and equipped to share the gospel through his music ministries. He draws others into God's love or at least reveals to them how much they are loved by God. Like the prodigal father in Luke's parable, God is always watching and waiting for us to turn or return to Him and experience the fullness of His grace. We are all witnesses throughout our lives to the power of God's love, but some of us are blessed, to have a position, job, or role that allows us to witness widely in exciting ways. Pastor Paul is leaving to live the next season of his life sharing his gifts with the folks of Beulah UMC in Sandy Run, SC as their Director of Music. Thanks be to God for his time with us.

**Thank you, Pastor Paul, for sharing your heart and soul with us.**

Blessings

Pastor Wendy van Vliet



## United Women of Faith

Our UMW completed a very successful yard sale thanks to our congregation who brought so many valuable items and returned to shop, to all those who spread the word and to our members who worked so hard to make it a success. We made more than \$3000 so we were able to fulfill our pledge of \$1,000 to the battered women's shelter and have enough for next year. At our October meeting, we welcomed our own Jennifer Hincks, who is a Victim's Witness Specialist at the county State's Attorney Office. She talked about domestic violence and told us some eye-opening stories. She reiterated how our support of the shelter is so important.



## Bonfire & Campout (& Breakfast!)







Crossroads had a wonderful time at the Pumpkin Patch at Green Street Gardens! The children enjoyed the hay ride, bouncing pillow and other fun activities. CCDC also had their Halloween celebration with "Trunk or Treat" and were excited to see everyone dressed up! .

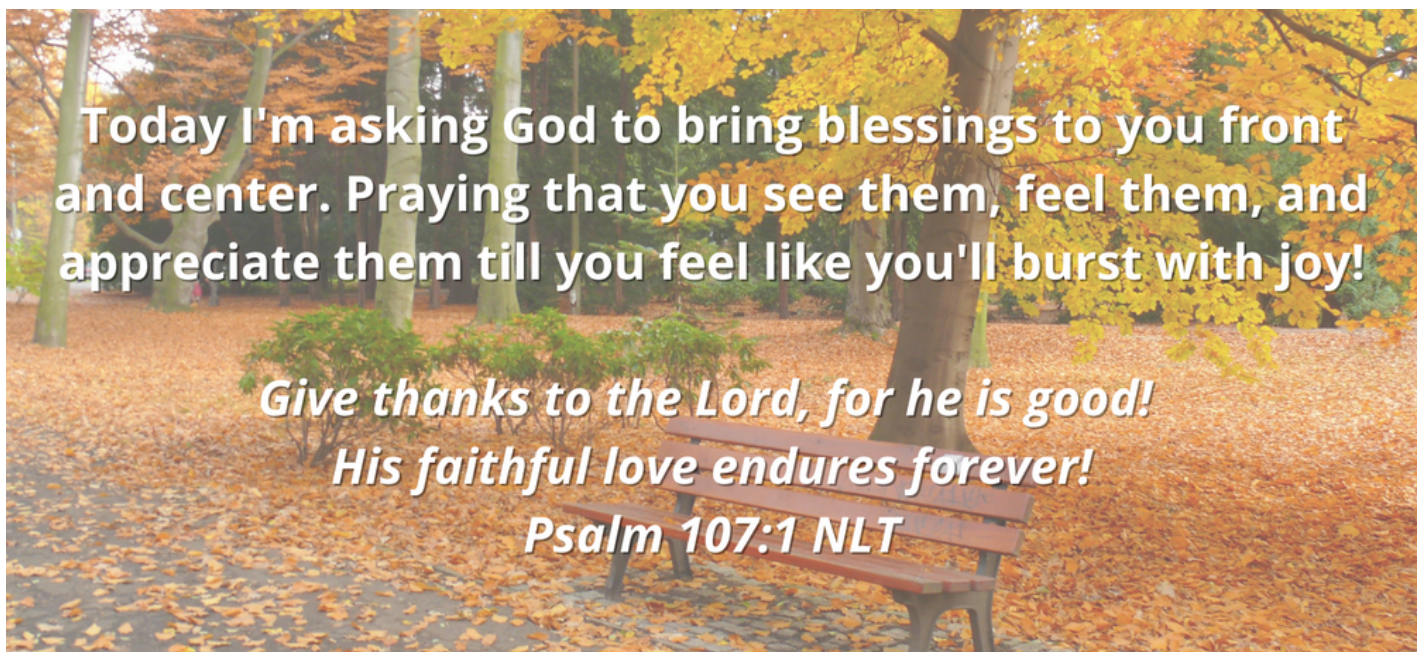
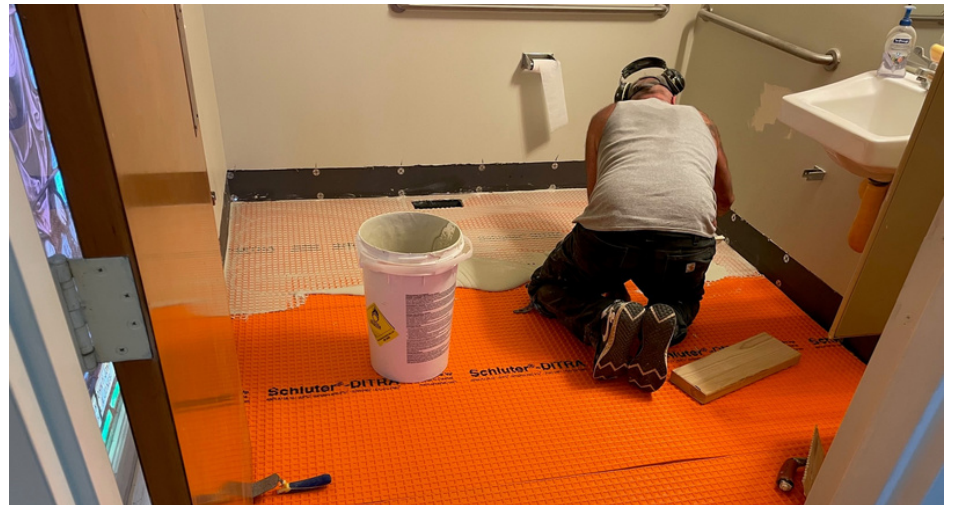


The joy I feel today is, in part, because of you. Praying you feel it too.  
*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace.*  
*Romans 15:13 CSB*

**CCDC is looking for a full or part-time aide!**  
**Please email a resume to [crdirector@crossroadscdc.com](mailto:crdirector@crossroadscdc.com)**



# Construction from Destruction: Redoing the bathrooms in the Sanctuary



Today I'm asking God to bring blessings to you front and center. Praying that you see them, feel them, and appreciate them till you feel like you'll burst with joy!

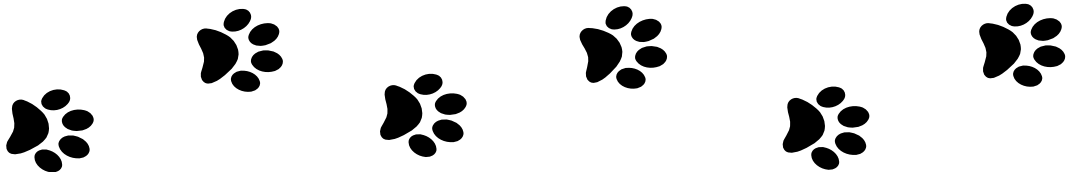
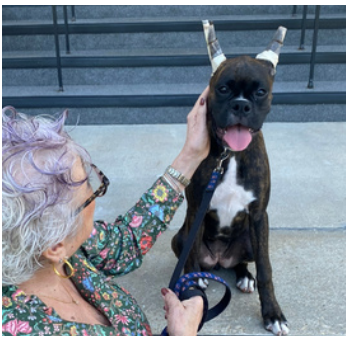
*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!*

*His faithful love endures forever!*

*Psalm 107:1 NLT*



# Pet Blessings







## *Back to Church Sunday & Moon Bounce Fun!*



## *Farewell to David Chevalier, our Council Chair*



# Dear Ones,

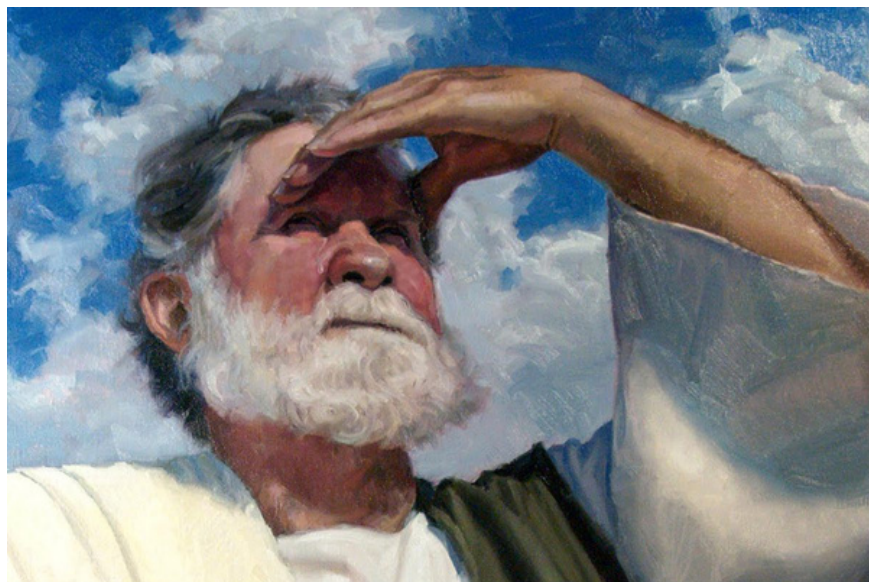
I hope you all had the opportunity to listen to Pastor Paul's message on the Prodigal Father. We all know this story, but the message has never touched me as did the message that day. The last sermon I heard preached on the prodigal son had been a favorite, and oddly both Pastor Paul's and the last focused on the words, "while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming, and filled with love, he ran to his son."



Now, the last time I heard this message preached the minister focused on "he ran to his son". He RAN. He was so HAPPY to see the return of his beloved son, that he RAN. He was so excited and eager to greet the son who had been lost to him that he put on the nearest sandals he could find and RAN. The minister stopped here and looked down to her feet and noticed that her shoes did not match! Must be a girl thing. Who woulda thunk it?

Pastor Paul focused on "while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming." He SAW him coming (while he was a long distance away) He must have been LOOKING for him! It had been years, but he SAW him coming because he was LOOKING. In Jewish tradition the child would have been disowned for what he had done. Men of means did not run; an elder would have met him at the city gates and thrown down a clay pot to shatter before him as a sign of his shame. The word for this punishment is 'kezazah'. Jesus would have known the tradition, but he wanted you to know that your heavenly father patiently waits for your return, and He never loses sight of you.

Sadly, I lived through a prodigal story which did not have a happy ending. I was guilty of the kezazah and still live with that guilt. My prodigal came home in a box. I have finally, after years, been able to put my guilt to rest, and my son lies peacefully in our church cemetery. Please know that God will always wait for you and will always welcome you home.



*Peace and  
love, Connie*

# Church Calendar



UMW November meeting is **Saturday, November 11 at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall and all women of the church are invited. We hope to have a speaker from the United Women of Faith (our new name) conference to talk about the county, state, and maybe the world-wide reach of our organization.

Save the Date: **November 12** is Veteran's Day Sunday, and we will be honoring those who have served during our worship services at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall, 10 AM online, and 11 AM in the Sanctuary.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are due back to the church **by November 12!** Don't miss this chance to spread the Word of God to children in need throughout the world.

This fall, we are again making Thanksgiving Sharing Baskets. We will be preparing Thanksgiving boxes for families in need in South County. The following items are needed: canned green beans/corn, boxed stuffing mix, large cans of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy mix, brownie and cake mix with frosting. The collection date for donations is **by November 12**. Thank you for sharing!



GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays is **Sunday, November 19 at 2 PM** at Kalas funeral home.

Grief is harder around the holidays - Know how to deal with the challenges: Facing this season while grieving can sometimes feel like taking one step forward and two steps back. But like a trusted guide, a 2-hour Surviving the Holidays event will prepare you to navigate the season's changes. Register online at:

<https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/47806>

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is **Saturday, November 25 from 10 AM - 3 PM**.

Register online at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>



Christmas Cantata at Galesville UMC on **Sunday, December 17 at 3 PM**, members of Davidsonville UMC & our DUMC Kids will be participating!

Then the kids will perform their part of the Cantata at Davidsonville UMC on **Wednesday, December 20 at 7 PM**.



# Children singing "Father Abraham" in their PJs!

*"Father Abraham had many sons, and many sons had Father Abraham! I am one of them, and so are you, so let's go praise the Lord!"*



*Education Meeting is on November 6  
at 7 PM in the church office or by  
Zoom*

**November 11:** Bowling at Annapolis Bowl 10:30 AM

**December 2:** Parents Night Out - movie night for kids

**December TBD:** Christmas pageant practice

**December 10:** Christmas pageant during 9 AM service

**December 16:** Cantata practice @ Galesville UMC

**December 17:** Cantata @ Galesville UMC-be there at 2:30 PM

**December 20:** Cantata @ DUMC - be there at 7:30 PM

**January 12, 2024:** Game night at DUMC from 6PM - 8 PM



Praying thanks for God's goodness  
in your life. You truly are a  
blessing to others.  
*I will bless you... and you will be a  
blessing. Genesis 12:2 CSB*



**Stay tuned for announcements  
about the Angel Tree!**



**Christmas Eve - Sunday,  
December 24**

Family Service at 9 AM - Fellowship Hall  
Online Service at 10 AM - Facebook & YouTube  
Traditional Service at 11 AM - Sanctuary  
Candlelight Service at 7 PM - Sanctuary



## **Worship & Music Director**

DUMC is seeking a Director who is a skilled, versatile musician who will provide excellent music for our Sunday morning worship services and serve as a creative team player in planning and leading worship services with our pastor. The position entails teaching and rehearsing our choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists to create appropriate experiences to engage the congregation in dynamic worship. The candidate for this position needs to have a passion for connecting others to God through worship that is joyful, imaginative, and transforming.

The Music director will serve as the primary leader and recruiter for all the musical ensembles, soloists, and instrumentalists. Additionally, the selection of music, organizing rehearsals, empowering participants, oversight of volunteer leaders of the children's choir and the sound technician(s) is expected. The position requires weekly collaboration with the pastor and staff to plan inspirational worship that maintains a cohesive theme. Experience building online worship is beneficial. Being organized with good communication skills is essential.

**Please submit a resumé, a cover letter, and a statement that describes your education and musical experience to Pastor Wendy van Vliet [pastorwendyv@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwendyv@gmail.com) and to the office [dumcoffice@dumc.net](mailto:dumcoffice@dumc.net).**

### **Toiletry Kits - Debby Wasson**

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!

**We will be building toiletry kits after the 9 AM service on November 19.**





# Baptism of Charleigh Tartaglia

# Baptism of Landon Bisci



## Coming this Christmas - The Gift of Being Present

*"Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness."*

— Isaiah 40:11, *The Inclusive Bible*

Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried — often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is "the Holy Living One is with you." Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.





# 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](http://www.dumc.net/prayer)

## Temporary Office Hours until mid-December



Monday: 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Wednesday: 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday: 9 AM - 2 PM

Friday: 9 AM - 2 PM



## November

- 1 - Betty Magruder
- 2 - Cole Kronenthal
- 2 - Chris Tucker
- 3 - Paul Raddin
- 3 - Mary Wilson
- 4 - Michael Payne
- 4 - Adam Schmitt
- 10 - Marie Simpson
- 10 - Christian Stanek
- 11 - Bruce Cobb
- 12 - Debby Wasson
- 13 - James Egbert
- 13 - Maeve Simpson
- 14 - Julia Cobb
- 14 - Liz Hopkins
- 15 - Pam Durbin
- 16 - Erin Hollamon
- 19 - Caroline Scruggs
- 21 - Ann Simmons
- 26 - Martha Payne
- 26 - Joann Smith

## December

- 3 - Donald Monaghan
- 4 - Jackie Wallander
- 6 - Noah Hall
- 7 - Gaylen Barbour
- 7 - Elaine Lancaster
- 7 - Tom Roh
- 8 - Mary Elaine Hardesty
- 8 - Barbara Nalley
- 10 - Lyla Bisci
- 13 - Beverley Swaim-Staley
- 15 - Redge Mahaffey
- 16 - Sharon Foster
- 16 - Charleigh Tartaglia
- 16 - Kendall Vincent
- 17 - Betty Schmitt
- 21 - Randy Simpson
- 21 - Lynn Welton-Beatty
- 22 - Steven Tartaglia
- 23 - Evelyn Rolko
- 26 - Craig Kronenthal
- 26 - Doug Wasson
- 27 - Francois Pierru
- 30 - John Wallander
- 21 - Jessica Klein
- 31 - Shirley McCarthy



*~HAPPY~  
Anniversary*

11/10 - John & Patricia Cain

12/10 - Caroline & Greg Scruggs

12/20 - Wendy & Frank van Vliet

12/23 - Bonnie & John Campbell

**Life isn't always easy, but you'll never be alone. I'm thanking God for always being by your side. And give thanks for everything to God the Father. Ephs. 5:20 NLT**

## 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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