

DAVIDSONVILLE UMC

LAMPLIGHTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Invite! Invite! Invite!

Everyone is rooted or grounded in something. Many folks around us are rooted deeply in the ways of the world. When they pass our church they may think, "B-o-r-i-n-g! I went to church once and it was so dull, the pastor droned on forever." Or maybe they think we're in it for the money. Or maybe they've visited for a festival or BBQ sandwich and feel that church is a nice thing that some people do, but they don't see how it is relevant to their lives.

What was it like for you before you belonged? Were you wondering if there was more to life than work and family responsibilities? Were you lonely or lost in worry and uncertainty? Who in your life was living their faith? Who did you look at and think, I am not sure what they have, or why they make the choices they do, but I want that. I want to be like that. For me, those people were our neighbors Andy and Marti Keep. It was our discussions about parenting, negotiating work-family balance, and community responsibilities that opened the doors to church for Frank and me. Every member of DUMC is a minister. We each are an intricate part of the body of Christ and the mission of God. As we live our lives as disciples of Jesus, people are watching us. They are intrigued. Invite them in. Open the doors of church, and faith, and life in community. Invite!

No person is too far gone. Social media makes life look shiny and clean as we scroll through photos of other people's vacations, parties, awards, and accomplishments. It is easy for us to read stories about someone being far from God, who then experiences a life change that can only come from God. It is easy to read and think, "Wow - only God!" But when we meet Billy who lives down the road and is a drug addict, or Suzy who rents around the corner and has been threatened with eviction three times because she can't get her act together, it is overwhelming for us. Billy and Suzy are those people who turn up in church and talk your ear off. Five minutes after meeting them, you'll know all their problems. They're a mess.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1: Pastor's Message
Page 2: Council Meeting/
Page 3-4: Finance Message
Page 5: CCDC/Butterflies
Page 6: This Summer
Page 7: Connie's Corner
Page 8-10: Calendar/Events
Page 11: SNO/Toiletry Kits
Page 12: Builders of God/
Education/GriefShare
Page 13: Baptism/
New Member
Page 14: Birthdays/
Anniversaries

Our Purpose:



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

Can we embrace the mess? We can because we know that God's saving power is bigger than any one person's sin. God works through the people and gifts of our congregation to bring healing and restore order to the mess. No person is too far gone. Open the doors to church! Invite!

We are real people with real struggles. The ways of the world tempt us. Our lives are messy, and we are disciples of Jesus. We may not have it all together, but church is where we can get it together. We are a community that bears one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). Invite others to struggle and grow with us.

September 17th , is National Back-to-Church Sunday. Invite people to join us for worship, a short message, food, and fellowship. Invite them again in the following weeks so that they can participate in our series *Rooted*, and experience a life rooted in scripture, faith, and community.

September 17 Worship, 10 AM Sanctuary – Food & Fun following in Fellowship Hall

September 24 & October 1 Worship, 9 AM Fellowship Hall & 11 AM Sanctuary, and

Ask the Pastor 10:15 AM-10:45 AM, Parlor- 30 mins to root around in the sermon or devotional.



Where are we Going? – Highlights from August's Council Meeting

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

All committees are preparing reports for our annual **Church Conference to be held Nov. 9th at Mt Zion UMC in Lothian.** These reports will be delivered and voted on during our **September Council Meeting on the 18th at 7 PM.**

Your questions and comments are welcome. **Please plan to attend the council meeting in September.**

Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC) drew representatives from the various committees together to prepare the Congregational Profile for the Church Conference. They are working on advice for the Clergy Compensation for 2024. They are also in the process of hiring the new Coordinator of Child/Youth Ministries. The next opportunity to make **sandwiches for the Lighthouse Shelter folks is September 11th** at Debby Wasson's home.

Missions: Be aware that you can donate directly to Mercy Chefs or UMCOR (code 901670) to support relief efforts in Maui. The next **Tongues of Fire sale is Sept. 9th.**

The Sunshine team has been caring for the homebound and ill well.

Trustees have completed repairs to the roof and bathrooms. They are waiting on the insurance company to make further decisions for the rest of the roof and the elevator room. When the elevator room is complete work on the Parlor will begin. Painting estimates for the Annex and other exterior work have been received. John Wallander is the lead trustee for all grounds projects.

United Methodist Women (UMW) - see pg. 8-9

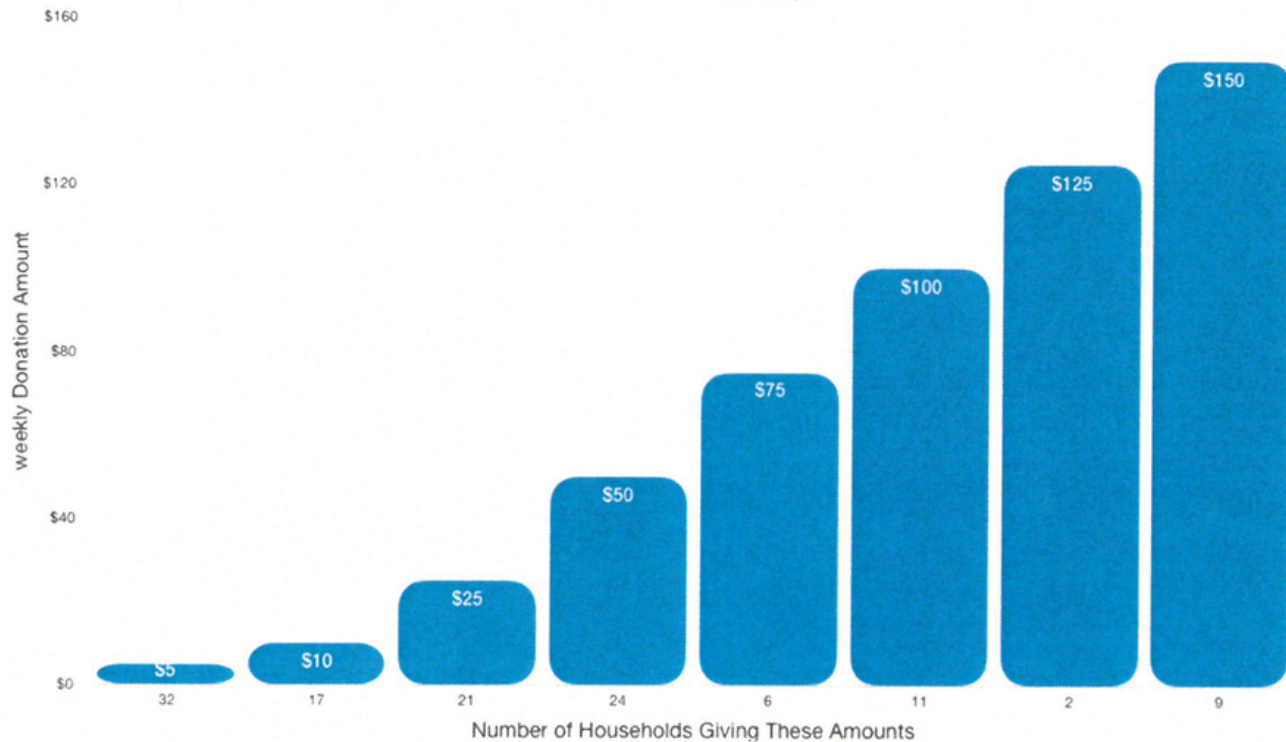
Social Needs & Outreach (SNO) - see pg. 11

Crossroads Child Development Center (CCDC) - see pg. 5

The Worship/Evangelism Committee reminds us that we celebrate National Back-to-Church Sunday on Sept. 17th . Not only will we worship in one service at 10 am, but we will also share in a big picnic. The new series *Rooted* will begin that day. September is a great time to invite family and friends to experience church with us. Church is life giving – invite someone! Give them a *Rooted* devotional. **Grief Share begins Sept 6th. Pet Blessings are available in front of the church on Sunday Oct 1, 1-2 PM.** We will be participating in the Community Cantata Dec. 17th at Galesville UMC

Finance – We are approximately \$62,000 in the red as of the end of July. It is not unusual for us to be behind in donations at this point of the summer, but we seem to be a little more behind than normal. We are following the national trend of declining donations. While religion continues to be the category that received the largest percentage out of the ten charitable categories, that percentage has been decreasing consistently over the last forty years. This generation gives about half of what their parent's did. Plus, rising inflation means the donations we do receive have less impact. Since there are so many charities asking for donations the committee asked Pastor Wendy to write articles for the *Lamplighter* explaining how funds are used and asking people if they can Step Up their giving.

Can You Step It Up



Our church depends on you to power up our mission and ministry with our presence, prayers, witness, service, and gifts. **We planned on \$7,077 a week** being contributed by our worshippers and community members to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and changing lives. So far this year we have **averaged about \$5,439** a week in donations. The staircase graph above illustrates how our congregation gives. For example, 32 households (26% of our congregation) give \$5 or less a week. Another 17 households donate between \$5 - \$10 per week. These means that we are dependent on a few very generous families to fuel our work.

Our ministries are vital! With our congregation faith is strengthened, our little ones grow in body, mind, and spirit, loneliness is lessened, grief addressed, and meaning and purpose are found. We feed the hungry, keep roofs over people's heads, and help give kids what they need so that they can learn. Our church truly makes a difference both in the community and in people's personal lives.

Will you ensure that our impact remains strong? **Can you step it up?** Can you give \$5 more a week. That is about the amount that you would spend on a couple of cups of coffee. If your family is financially sound, would you consider taking a bigger step, for example a \$10-\$25 increase.

The most economical method of donating is account to account transfers. There are no fees for the church or your family. You set the amount and the timing which can be changed at any time. The forms are available at worship (ask an usher) or in the office. Even if you can't step it up, this method helps you donate regularly. It helps both you and the church stay on budget.

Our congregation has been making a difference in Davidsonville and the surrounding community for 179 years. Will you trust in God's abundance and step it up so that this work can continue with strength?

How Davidsonville United Methodist Church Uses Resources

(YTD totals include a percentage of salaries, building costs and administration expenses)

Your church leadership has a bold plan of ministry to continue our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Since we are just over halfway through the year, it is time to review our plan:

1) To provide meaningful, life-changing worship each week- **Worship**

Serving the 348 people of our congregation, we have an average 140 persons in Sunday worship during our three services: 8:30 am, 11:00 am and online. YTD Total - \$67,242 (30%)

2.) To invite people into God's love - **Evangelism**

We reach out to our community through our festivals and special events. Our next step is to engage community members in faith conversations through Back-To-Church Sunday, Grief Share and other activities such as Pet Blessings. YTD Total - \$37,946 (18%)

3.) To nurture people in their faith journey - **Discipleship**

Sunday School, Bible Study, and Ask-the-Pastor provide a place for people to struggle with scripture and life questions and grow deeper in faith. The ill and homebound are visited regularly and the pastor provides counseling. Sermons are available on-line. Our big leap of faith is to hire a coordinator of children and youth ministries which will impact discipleship greatly.

YTD Total - \$40,796 (17%)

4.) To witness to our faith through service beyond ourselves - **Mission**

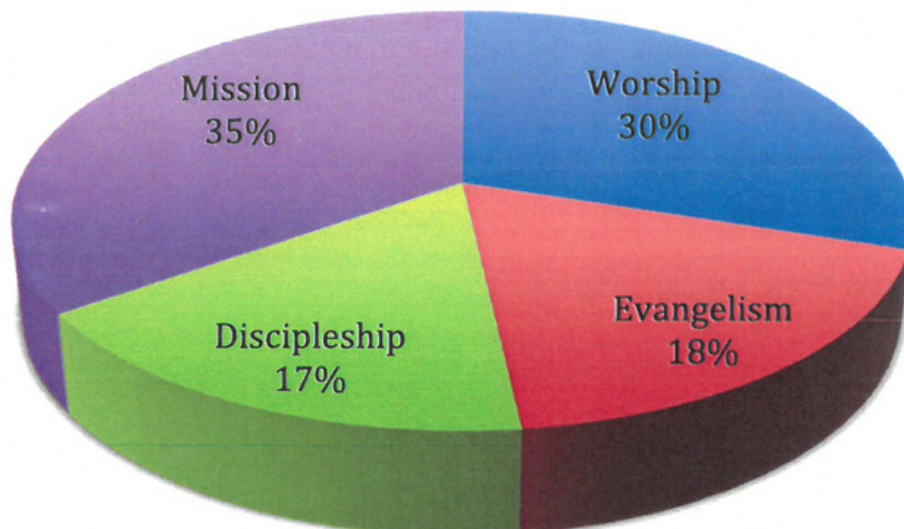
If you were to ask, "Where do you see God at work?" The most common response would be heard in stories of our missions and ministries. DUMC works co-operatively with other local churches to serve our community by connecting others to God and by meeting peoples' emotional and physical needs. In addition, our mission shares for greater UMC projects are fully paid.

YTD Total - \$78,241 (35%)

We planned on \$7,077 a week from worshippers and community member to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We have been averaging \$5,439.

How We Use Our Resources





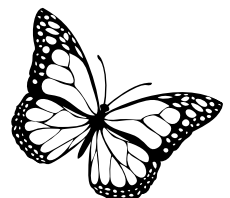
Summer is almost over but that hasn't stopped us from having fun! We had a busy summer with lots of fun activities. We have a former CrossRoads student currently employed by CrossRoads, Ms. Renee Urdal, who had shared her horse, Dr. Kate, with the students. They had a blast giving Dr. Kate (the horse) a treat. We also had a Foam Party where the children and the teachers enjoyed playing with the foam bubbles. The children also had fun learning about the animals with Echo Adventure and they got the chance to pet a python who was 8 feet long.

We just wanted to remind everyone: please do not enter the building if CCDC is in session. If you need to access the fellowship hall or the church kitchen, please check in with us via the main doors and do not use the door code per the Office of Licensing regulations. We are required to know who is in the building when CCDC is in session.

Lastly, thank you for your continued support to our CCDC ministry.

From the Council: **CrossRoads Child Development Center (CCDC)** is doing very well. They plan to disburse profits to the general fund, SNO, and the Trustees special reserve. This will help us care for our building and neighbors.

Butterfly Release





Summer Storms

During the storm on July 29th the winds knocked over several trees in the Green Cathedral and Cemetery. We were unable to worship outside on the 30th but John Wallander and his helpers had it cleaned up within a few days so we only missed one day outside! Thank you!

Being Jesus to the Greater Community

When we wonder how we can love like Jesus, we ask ourselves, "What resources do we have to share?" Besides our awesome buildings, and green cathedral, we have a bus. We were pleased that we could share our bus with West River United Methodist Camp just down the road. They borrowed it for a week in July to facilitate Basketball Camp and in August for fishing camp. Thank you for helping campers push themselves to try new things and grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.



Trustee's Top Notch Repair

Last winter our roof was severely damaged by hail resulting in water leaking into the sanctuary bathrooms and furnace room. The trustees lead by Jessi Rolko have been working diligently with the insurance company. This July a new roof was installed over the bathrooms and both of the basement steps. The bathrooms have been painted and new floors will be installed soon. Raise a hallelujah - for the new roof!



Dear Ones,



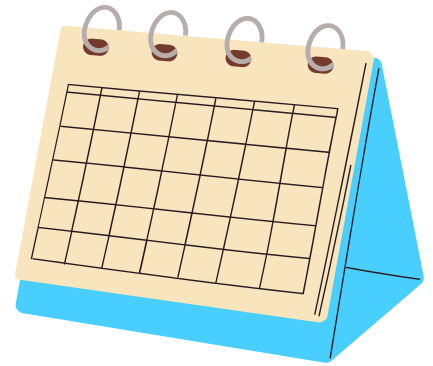
The other night my sleep was quite broken up by dreams. The first was heavenly. I love it when Graham visits. The other two, not so. But, as I lay there trying to console myself that this, too, shall pass, I realized what I was going to write to you about, and began to think of the most astute things I wanted to say. I said to myself, "self, get up and write these down before you forget" Sadly, I did not listen to self. I guess that brings us to the topic, DREAMS. What are they and where do they come from? Let's start with this: You're holding a cup of coffee when oops someone inadvertently hits your arm and it spills. Why does it spill, well because someone hit you're arm and the coffee spilled, duh. WRONG. It spilled because there was coffee in your cup. Whatever goes into your cup comes out. So, when life comes along and shakes you, what comes out? I hope it's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If not, watch out; God'll get you!

Many of the Biblical dreams are delivered by Angels. Think of Numbers 12:6 "And He said, 'Hear my words': If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream." I'm glad you looked that up lol When you think of Biblical dreams, who do you think of, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Ezekial, Daniel, Mary, Joseph, the Wisemen, Peter, Paul, Pontius Pilot's wife? (Really, that's quite a short list) The entire Bible can be said to be the story of God's breakthrough into human consciousness via the unconscious, and the early church regarded dreams as revelations from God. God is first and only our Creator and Father and is present in the depths of our being.

If we didn't banish some of our darker dreams from our consciousness, we might miss a message or a warning. At least, that's how I view "night"mares. I know I rarely remember the dark dreams, whereas my heavenly dreams I remember in living color! Let's not get Freudian here, but it only makes sense that experiences long forgotten and lying dormant in our subconscious can manifest themselves in dreams, helping us find healing and wholeness -- perhaps as a message or warning or just as a means of release! Who orchestrates these events? Did you know that Paul McCartney wrote the lyrics for Let It Be in a dream? He has said that they were a gift from his deceased mother. I'm sure it was a blessing that he saw his mother; but the gift? That was from his Heavenly Father! If you'd like to explore dreams further, there is a book, "Dreams, God's Forgotten Language" which might be of interest.

Please know that you are blessed and loved! Connie

Church Calendar



The United Methodist Women will meet at 11 AM on Saturday, Sept. 9 in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a potluck brunch so please bring a dish to share. We will have a short program, then plan for the yard sale and for the coming year.



Tongues of Fire Sale

Our next BBQ Sale will be on Sat, September 9, from 11 AM - 2 PM! We will be serving pulled pork, chicken halves, and pit beef! Come early before the food runs out!

We will be having a special day the whole family can enjoy. There will be food, music, activities for the children, and a short message on Faith and God's love for us.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Back-to-Church Sunday

**10 AM service in the Sanctuary
Picnic to follow in the Fellowship Hall**

JOIN US

**Davidsonville UMC
819 W Central Avenue
Davidsonville, MD 21035**



Drive-Thru Pet Blessings are Oct. 1st, 1 PM - 2 PM

Donations may be brought to the church Monday through Friday the week before from 10 AM - 12 PM and 5 PM - 7 PM, or left on the ramp by the kitchen which will be checked daily. Please donate and tell your friends to come and buy.

DAVIDSONVILLE UMC IS HAVING A

Yard Sale!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23
8 AM - 1 PM

DUMC Fellowship Hall
819 W Central Avenue
Davidsonville, MD 21035

All proceeds will go to the Weinberg House, a shelter for battered women in Anne Arundel County.



October 7 : Bonfire

November 11 : Bowling at Annapolis Bowl

December TBD : Christmas pageant practice

December TBD : Christmas pageant during
9 am service

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





You're invited to

NATIONAL

FAITH & BLUE

WEEKEND

Join your local law enforcement and members of your community for a weekend of resolution and reconciliation. National Faith & Blue Weekend is a collaborative effort to build bridges and break biases.

Hosted By:

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
&
Anne Arundel County Police
Department

***Come Join us for Lunch and
Conversation!***

When & Where:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Field Of Grace

122 Bayard Rd Lothian MD



Learn More: WWW.FAITHANDBLUE.ORG



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION

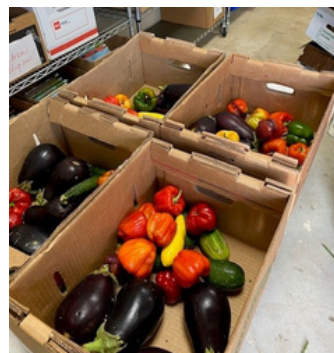


We delivered 20 back packs with water bottles and headphones, tissues, and hand sanitizers to Hillsmere Elementary School. We also delivered extra donations to Edgewater Elementary School.



Other Social Needs News

- We have helped 10 people since June with rent and utilities.
- Next blood drive is Nov. 25
- Our next meeting will be Sept. 21 at 4 PM in the church office.



The breakfast club was a great success and many of our church members helped with this event. The big difference this year was the donation of produce from the local farmers. The families were very appreciative and were always smiling when the veggies arrived. Some heartwarming stories: one was a young boy who claimed to be an atheist had been given a Bible before COVID. He came back this year and asked for more Bibles. Two young boys, one in 10th grade and the other in 7th grade, were there every day, and stayed and talked with the workers the entire time. We also offered book fairs at all sites. The children and the parents seemed pleased. The books were replenished by the generosity by A.A. County Public Library (Jean Smith) and Parole Rotary's BIG donations to this worthwhile project. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and resources. The children were blessed for sure.

Toiletry Kits - Debby Wasson

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!

Spending vacations
faithfully serving,
from the top of lifts to
bottom of posts



Builders for God

Tim & Georgia McArdle
hard at work!

Education: Save the Date!

September 10th at 9:45 AM: Sunday School meeting after the service for those involved with youth, Sunday School, or nursery. The meeting will take 30-40 minutes. We will conduct a brief Safe Sanctuary training at the beginning of the meeting, followed by Sunday School teacher training.

September 17th: 3rd grade Bible presentations & first day of Sunday School. (if you want to sign up to help run Sunday school, please contact Cade Clurman or the office).

September 24th: Acolyte training for youth aged 3rd grade and older.

GriefShare New Session Starting Sept 6, 2023 at 6:30pm



This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and followup discussions were to them. Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to stuff their grief instead of allowing it to do the Godgiven work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held Wednesday's from 6:30pm to 8pm in the Church Office building for 12 weeks.

Cost: \$20 for the workbook | Child care: no

Any questions, contact Pam Durbin at pdurbin1@gmail.com or call the church office at 410-798-5511

To register, go to Griefshare.org and search zipcode 21035 for DUMC by 9/5.

Baptism of Preston Levi Thomas



On Sat. Aug. 12th, 2023, we welcomed Preston Levi Thomas, son of Christabelle Outten and Garrett Thomas into the Christian family of God through baptism. Preston is Nelson Outten's first grandchild!

Welcome New Member



Shannon Price lives in Bowie, MD and grew up there, attending Bowie UMC. She is a hairdresser and taught beauty school for several years. She is now an office manager for a towing transport company. She has 2 children, Jimmy and Casey Duley (Casey works in our church office) and is married to John Price. She moved to Shady Side, MD when her children were young, but continued to travel to Bowie for church, because her family was attending there. After her mother passed and her sisters moved, it wasn't the same feeling to her there. She used to pass Davidsonville UMC all those years headed to Bowie. She was always curious about the Green Cathedral. When she and her husband started dating, she mentioned it to him, and so they attended a service at the Green Cathedral and fell in love with it. They still attended Bowie regularly but visited DUMC occasionally. They always felt so welcome here. When Casey began working in the church office, they felt even more of a connection. She said, "in the time that we have been attending here, we really love the warmth of the congregation and seeing so many young ones enjoying church." Shannon spoke to Pastor Wendy and asked about becoming a member: "This church feels like home to me. I want to be a member of Davidsonville UMC because I want to be a part of this family. When I tell others where I attend church, I want to be able to say this is where I belong. My spirit feels nourished when I leave here on Sunday mornings." We welcome Shannon and her family to the DUMC Family!

3 WAYS TO GIVE



Giving Envelopes

Give by cash or check with in worship Sunday mornings



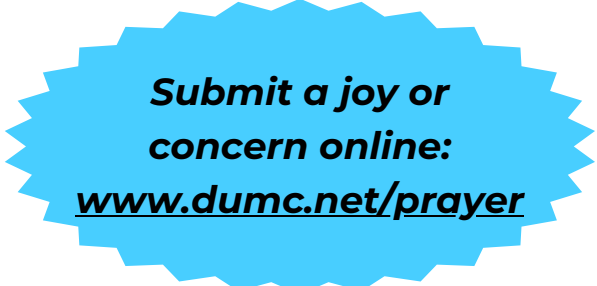
Online Giving

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



Temporary Office Hours for September- 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



September

- 3 - Katie Potts
- 5 - Kristin Varner-Maslar
- 7 - Greg Scruggs
- 8 - Pat Brodsky
- 8 - Brenda Klein
- 9 - Delma Miller
- 10 - Cameron Swann
- 11 - Kevin Doney
- 13 - Steve Alexander
- 13 - Lynda Hall
- 13 - Everett Wasson
- 16 - Lauren King Fiesler
- 16 - Vicki Kontson
- 17 - John Campbell
- 17 - Dot Wood
- 19 - Cyndy Doney
- 19 - Sharon Loss
- 23 - Barbara O'Donnell
- 27 - Chip Hardesty
- 28 - Morgan Jacobs
- 29 - Luke Borchelt
- 29 - Robert Doyle
- 29 - Pam Matousek
- 30 - Lena Fiesler



October

- 4 - Bev Finn
- 4 - Don Wilson
- 6 - Barbara Cohen
- 7 - Herb Wilson
- 11 - Demi Heider
- 16 - Logan Masters
- 16 - Rita Siprak-Weill
- 17 - Lee Matousek
- 22 - Aaron Brantley
- 23 - Jodee Niemann
- 25 - Vassie Hollamon
- 29 - Torin Jacobs
- 31 - Connie Haywood



- 9/2 - Damon & Rhonda Ostis
- 9/3 - Dusty & Gracie Egbert
- 9/6 - Randy & Marie Simpson
- 9/10 - Scott & Beverley Swaim-Staley
- 9/19 - Ray & Rebecca Robertson
- 10/3 - Vassie & Erin Hollamon
- 10/22 - Douglas & Lisa Wasson
- 10/24 - Mark & Rita Siprak-Weill

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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