



Centreville United Methodist Church

"The church on a hill which cannot be hidden. "

January 2023

The Messenger

From the Pastors Desk. . . Is there a part of you that is restless? Do you feel heaviness? It may not be something related to yourself. It could be related to the wars and conflict of this world both here and abroad. It could be a tension in your family or concern for a friend.

But maybe, it is something that is stirring inside of you.

We live in a world that is filled with anger, evil, pain, struggle, suffering and so much more. These are the products of the fall of humankind. This is not the way God created nor wanted the world to be! God is a God of hope, joy, life, love, peace just to name a few of God's characteristics. Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

I have felt and known the pain of this world. I have cried more tears and experienced more heartache than I care to share. I want this life in the full that Jesus offers to us. How about you?

Jesus is sharing that he is the "gate for the sheep" and the "good shepherd" when he is speaking in this section of Scripture. He will lay down his life for His sheep. His sheep will know his voice. See Jesus died and rose again so that I can have life and have it abundantly, but living this life is hard. As a person who believes in and follows Christ, I am not immune to pain and hurt. A good shepherd tends to his sheep. When they are hurt or wounded, the shepherd attends to them and brings healing. The good shepherd leads them to a place of good grazing and offers protection from the threats that lurk in the dark. The shepherd is ever present and because of it, the sheep know his voice.

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Centreville United Methodist
Church
608 Church Hill Rd.
Centreville, MD 21617
410-758-0868
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Outreach:

Reaching out into our Community to make a difference
By Larisa Thomas c240-994-5042, larisa97thomas@gmail.com

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities For Our Congregation:

Jan. 9	6:30 PM	ASP Meeting
Jan. 9	7:30 PM	Next Outreach Meeting
Jan. 26 & 27	6PM-Midnight	Shelter Fellowship Volunteers
Jan. 26 & 27	6:35 PM	Shelter Dinner Delivery

Shelter Staffing and Dinners Needed for January

We have the registrations open for the rest of the year. QAC Homeless Shelter (out of Kent Island UMC) dates in January are 26th & 27th. We only need 1 to 2 volunteers for Fellowship Shifts 6PM to midnight shift for each night. The main part of this job is just hanging out and is a great time to catch up on your reading, or you can jump in on a game of Mexican Train Dominoes with the Guests. There will be a staff member present at all times.

Dinner still will be provided by a member of our church on the same nights. It does not have to be fancy; in fact, plain home cooking is great! They will be dropped off at 6:35 PM in throw away dishes. If you are having trouble taking the dinner yourself, we could possibly have you drop the dinner for the Fellowship Volunteers to take in.

Signups are done through a link on our CUMC website under 'Serve' tab via SignUp Genius or in the Narthex. If you need help registering, call Larisa and she will gladly do it for you. We need January 26 & 27 covered first, but the other dates are February 25-27, March 27-30, and March 27-30, and April 27-29.

Food Pantry Update and Needs: Volunteers and Food

We have had a busy month! After processing the donations from the food drive, we have had a record December. On December 7th Lynda Palmatary, Phyllis and Bob Hoffman, Lisa and Taylor Walls held their free Christmas giveaways for the food pantry. We had 45 people come through, and they were so happy with their gifts! This is the highlight of the year for our guests. Then on December 21st we were able to bless our guests with \$50 Acme gift cards that Acme provided!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to assist shoppers at the food pantry. We are flexible with our shifts and look for once every 4-6 weeks commitment.

Although we have had some generous donations, the larger number of guests in December have gone through a lot of food. The food pantry special wishes are: peanut butter, cereal, and toiletries.

Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip Meeting January 9

Our Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip is scheduled for July 16-22. If you would like to help repair houses for people in need, please attend this meeting. No experience is necessary, but definitely appreciated. A \$150 commitment is required (but scholarships available). The rest of the cost will be offset by fundraising. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

From the Pastors Desk... (continued from page 1)

One of the most familiar Scripture verses is Psalm 23:

- ¹The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.
 He guides me along the right paths
 for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk
 through the darkest valley,^[a]
 I will fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever.

To me, this is one of the most peaceful passages in the Bible. The image of green pastures, quiet waters, refreshment of my soul, never walking alone, comfort, anointing oil, goodness and love just bring peace.

This January we are beginning on January 8, 2023, a 4-week sermon series titled "Missing Peace." I know that this is one that will be speaking to my own heart. I would also like to encourage you to be praying and have daily Bible reading. This is how we come to know the voice of our Good Shepherd more and more. Other spiritual disciplines that you will find helpful are fasting, giving, worship, fellowship, meditation, and journaling.

As we enter into a new year, 2023, let's commit to know and be known more by Jesus. As we do, may we encounter his peace and life which can be with us no matter what this year brings to us.

Happy New Year!

~ Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen and family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the cards, treats, and gifts during this holiday season. We certainly appreciated every one. We feel blessed to be here this year with you at CUMC and you made it that much "sweeter." We also want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

January Studies:

Theology of the Body: This will be a 2-week study on the theology of our bodies. We often get caught up in what we don't believe that as Christians we have lost the art of sharing what WE DO BELIEVE. This will be a brief study in the scriptures including the Christian understanding of the very nature of human embodiment, going back to the dawn of creation, moving right through the incarnation, the bodily resurrection of Christ, and even our future bodily resurrection at the end of time. Our bodies are talking to us – they are telling us an amazing story – and we have not been listening. Bring your Bible. No book is required for this study.

This class will be taught by Pastor Karen on Wednesdays at 1pm and 7:30pm starting January 4, 2023.

Living Faithfully: This is a 4-week book study that is required by our conference for the activities-based discernment process. Books will be available for the study. This study is designed to help you understand the deep disagreement regarding homosexuality, same-gender marriage, and the ordination of LGBTQI persons in the UMC and what it means for the present and future of the denomination. Please sign up in the Narthex.

These classes will be taught by Pastor Karen on Wednesdays at 1pm and 7:30pm starting January 18-February 8, 2023.

Centreville Youth Ministry January News

- January 1—Happy New Years: No Youth Group
- January 8—No Youth Group
- January 15—Youth Group meeting from 5:30-7pm
- January 22—No Youth Group
- January 29—Youth Group meeting from 5:30-7pm

AROUND THE CHURCH

Our newest members received in December!



Top Row left to right: Debbie Cimba, Anne Lane, Helen Benchoff. 2nd Row left to right: Hillary Pavelich, Viv Turner – not pictured Brenda Riggelman.



Some of the cast members of our Children's Christmas Program – Manager Tales. The kids did an incredible job sharing the Christmas Story!



Live Nativity never disappoints!



Successful Children's Christmas Shopping Day!

Our Search for Answers continues, One Step at a Time

Happy New Year Church!

With the holiday's now behind us, we want to update the congregation on the status of our church with regards to the disaffiliation process. 2023 will be a critical year in determining the future direction of CUMC, so we ask that you please attend the various meetings and bible studies that are requirements prior to the church taking the official vote.

In mid-December, if you are a member of Centreville UMC, you should have received a letter from our District Superintendent, Rev. Elmer Davis, requesting everyone attendance at a meeting on January 28th. This meeting is a requirement put in place by the Conference Board of Trustees for churches seeking disaffiliation. This informational conference, hosted by Rev. Davis, will be held on January 28th at 8:30 AM at St. Mark's UMC, located at 100 Peachblossom Road, Easton. All members are invited to attend. In addition, a representative from our Administrative Council will be present to report back to our church on the information.

Just to recap the last couple of months, the Conference Board of Trustees have agreed to take off the table the extra 50% of the tax assessed property value payment for churches who had sent in their intent to disaffiliate letter before July 1st (which CUMC had done). Currently, the requirement is two-years of apportionments, \$116,724, and a portion of unfunded liability of pension/medical, \$129,055. These amounts are still being reviewed by counsel and have not been finalized at this time. The apportionments were expected to be what we were paying in 2022 and 2023, but as of today the Conference is stating that we will not be able to include 2022 and will seek 2024. With our annual paying of apportionments, this will place an additional financial burden on our church of \$187,417. These amounts are still significant, and we will continue to work with all parties to get these to a level we can agree upon as well as looking into ways to attain this.

We also want to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming, two-week study on The Theology of the Body, which Pastor Karen will be leading on January 4th and January 11th. This study will help set the theological foundation prior to taking the Bishop Easterling's required study, Living Faithfully, which is an activities-based discernment process. This four-week study will be held January 18th, 25th, February 1st and 8th. Our goal is to have these studies wrapped up prior to the start of Lent, and for us to be able to bring the members together for a church vote mid-March.

Again, please remain in prayer on how you should personally vote, as well as the direction for our church. Together we will continue to move forward and make 2023 a great year at Centreville!

God be with you,

Jerry Thomas
Chair - CUMC Administrative Council



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship with us in person or online!

- 8:40 A.M. CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
- 11:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL SERVICE
- (NURSERY AVAILABLE DURING BOTH SERVICES)
- 9:50 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES)
- 5:30 P.M. YOUTH MINISTRIES (EVERY OTHER SUNDAY)

Small Group Study - Living in Preparation

Mondays at 1:00 P.M. and 6:45 P.M.

This group will address how to live successfully in today's world. The group is being led by David Beecher and Dale Becraft and is open to anyone. Meetings will begin on January 9. For further information call 410.829.1131

2023

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIRPERSONS

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

JERRY THOMAS

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

RHONDA KNOTTS

TRUSTEES

HENRY COVINGTON, JR.

RICHARD PHILLIPS, JR.

FINANCE

HEATHER TINELLI

LAY LEADER

WILL COVINGTON

CLERGY & OFFICE



SENIOR PASTOR

REV. KAREN HANDY

KHANDY@CENTREVILLE-UMC.COM



OFFICE MANAGER

SHELLY ILLEMSZKY

OFFICE@CENTREVILLE-UMC.COM

JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2

OFFICE CLOSED
TRUSTEE MTG. – 6:30PM

JANUARY 3

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10AM

JANUARY 4

FOOD PANTRY – 10AM
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY – 1 & 7:30PM
PRAISE BAND – 6:30PM

JANUARY 5

ROTARY – 7AM
CHOIR – 6PM
BELLS – 7:15PM

JANUARY 9

LIVING IN PREPARATION – 1 & 6:45PM
ASP – 6:30PM
CHORALE – 7PM
OUTREACH – 8PM

JANUARY 10

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10AM
SPRC – 6:30PM
REBUILDING TOGETHER – 6:30PM

JANUARY 11

SEWING GROUP – 10AM
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY – 1 & 7:30PM
PRAISE BAND – 6:30PM

JANUARY 12

ROTARY – 7AM
DCOM – 8:30AM
CHOIR – 6PM
BELLS – 7:15PM

JANUARY 16

OFFICE CLOSED – MLK
CHORALE – 7PM

JANUARY 17

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10AM
REBUILDING TOGETHER – 6:30PM

JANUARY 18

FOOD PANTRY – 10AM
LIVING FAITHFULLY – 1 & 7:30PM
PRAISE BAND – 6:30PM

JANUARY 19

ROTARY – 7AM
DCOM – 8:30AM
CHOIR – 6PM
BELLS – 7:15PM

JANUARY 21

RT BOARD PLANNING SESSION – 8:30AM

JANUARY 23

LIVING IN PREPARATION – 1 & 6:45PM
CHORALE – 7PM

JANUARY 24

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10AM
ADMIN COUNCIL – 6:30PM

JANUARY 25

LIVING FAITHFULLY – 1 & 7:30PM
PRAISE BAND – 6:30PM

JANUARY 26

ROTARY – 7AM
CHOIR – 6PM
BELLS – 7:15PM

JANUARY 30

LIVING IN PREPARATION – 1 & 6:45PM
CHORALE – 7PM

JANUARY 31

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – 10AM



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