

November 2021



The Perry Scope

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter
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A Message from The Pastor

Who would have thought a year ago that we would still be talking about Covid and all of the ramifications that it has had and continues to have on our church and our world? Many of us thought that by now Covid would be a thing of the past and we would all be saying “remember when...?”

This year like last year has been a challenging time as we have continued to do our best to move forward under difficult and uncertain circumstance. We strived to be adaptable, flexible, and resilient. Sometimes we have succeeded and sometimes we have failed but through it all our faith has remained strong.

Christmas reminds us that no matter how hard the world, Covid or anything else would seeks to press us down the incarnation of Jesus ushers light into “the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it” (John 1:5).

As people of faith, we remember that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness, we extend to one another. God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create and revive us by giving us strength in times of uncertainty.

I pray you may see that God is leading us into a new season of life and ministry together. I invite you to stay connected through your presence (online or in-person), service, prayers, witness, and giving. We need each other more than ever before.

May this Christmas despite any difficulties we may face be one filled with Joy!

Blessings

Pastor Vic





Food Pantry News

Fall is upon us which means beautiful colors of the trees, cool nights and preparing for the holidays! We recognize that the changes in the weather indicates the seasons are changing and with these changes it brings new a 'new look' to our normal world. This is also true, within the food pantry!. While the pantry continues to serve the needs of the community, many "changes" have occurred behind the scenes.

First, we have had several new people volunteer their services at the pantry. Kathy Whitson, Martha and Rich Spero, Mike and Pat Ryan, Betty Gramlich, Peggy Winchester, and Mary Raab & Cindy Sebald have all joined the (or rejoined) volunteering within the pantry since the summer. The work that they are doing has allowed the pantry to continue to be a true success in its mission – helping those that are in need!.

While we are truly blessed with all the volunteers at the pantry – we still could use a couple more! If you would like to be part of the 'pantry family of volunteers', we would love to have you! While some volunteers do a specific task, most work on a once a month or once a week schedule. Mostly, we are in need of a couple more volunteers to work one Saturday a month for 3 hours (two months out of every three month schedule).



Second, the pantry has been truly blessed with the donations of so many generous people within Perry Hall United Methodist Church and Camp Chapel United Methodist Church. Both churches congregants have continuously made sure that the pantry shelves are well stocked. Since early 2020, Camp Chapel UMC has been an integral partner and regularly supported the pantry by weekly donations of cases of food items and grocery items, as well as volunteering hundreds of hours within the pantry. The partnership between the two churches has been a wonderful blessing for the families.

While the pantry does receive a monthly food donation from the Maryland Food Bank, the churches congregants' donations have allowed the families to receive so much more – from shampoo

to diapers to detergent to so much more non-perishable groceries. The families that receive the help from the pantry, literally receive a full grocery cart of food, baked goods, personal hygiene items, and so much more! Thank you for caring, thank you for giving!



Third, the Holiday Food Basket donation drive started a few weeks ago – an event that the church has sponsored for years and years. This year's Thanksgiving basket distribution will occur on November 20th from 10 – noon and the Christmas basket distribution will occur on December 18th from 10- noon. While this event is not 'formally' advertised anywhere, we already have 53+ families from the community that has registered. We expect to give at least 100 holiday meal baskets away between the two dates – all depending on the success of the donation drive. Even though the donation drive has only been going on for four weeks, because of your generosity, we have already been able to 'fill' 50+ requested baskets. That means, your generosity allowed us to guarantee all the families that registered for the Thanksgiving holiday dinner baskets will be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner without the stress of how! We are now focusing on the donation drive to continue to succeed for another 50+ families to receive their Christmas holiday dinner due to the kindness of our two churches.

Donations can be actual specific food items, \$15 Walmart gift cards, or monetary donations (and we will do the shopping).

The items that are being collected are: boxed mashed potatoes, canned yams/sweet potatoes, canned turkey gravy, canned jelly cranberries, boxed corn muffin mix, boxed brownie mix or boxed cake mix with icing, canned green beans, canned corn, canned peas, canned mixed vegetables and \$15 Walmart gift cards (which will be used to purchase turkeys).

Don't forget – we can do the shopping for you! If you prefer to donate monetarily, we will be purchasing the eleven different items in case quantities – thus assuring continuity within each of the holiday baskets.

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Thank you for your generous support – you have been and always are truly so wonderful!

NOTE: If you know of a Baltimore County family that could benefit from our holiday food basket distribution, have them call the pantry to register!

Last, but not least, we are still in need of help on the second Thursday of the month when our Maryland food delivery comes in. The truck usually arrives around 10:30 and it takes very physical work for about 1 hour (unloading a couple of pallets of food and putting the items away). If you would like to help (and you can lift about 15 pound cases without difficulty) we would love to have you join us! We look forward to hearing from you – just call Dave or Laura at the pantry or by email, lhanna14@verizon.net.



Holiday Events and Worship

Sunday, December 5th

- Gingerbread House Decorating
- 10:45 am-12 noon

Sunday, December 12th

- Drive Thru Nativity
- 5-7 pm

Saturday, December 17th

- Community Choir Concert
- 7 pm

Saturday, December 18th

- Christmas Baskets Distributed
- 10 am-12 noon

Sunday, December 19th

- Cantata – “Worship the King”
- During 9:30 am Worship Service

Friday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

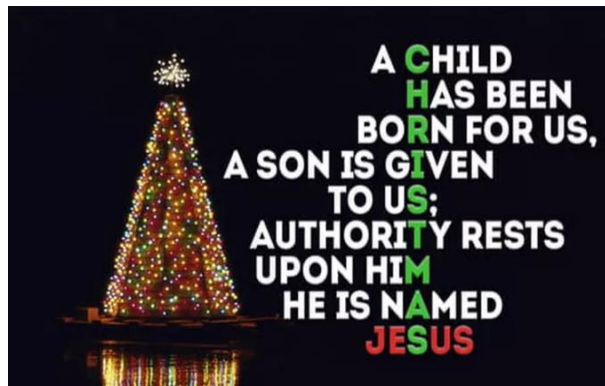
- Service w/Candle Lighting and Communion – 7 pm
- Pre-service Concert – 10:30 pm
- Service w/Candle Lighting and Communion – 11 pm

Sunday, December 26th

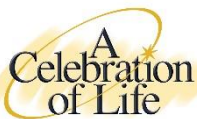
- Service of Lessons and Carols
- 9:30 Worship Service

December 27th – December 31st

- Church office closed



Upcoming Memorial Services



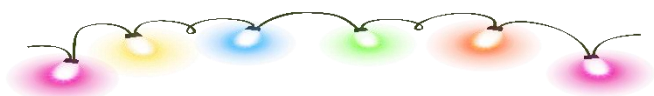
Rev. Cliff Webner

A memorial service will be held at Perry Hall UMC on Nov. 27th. There will be a gathering from 10 to 11 am.

The service will begin at 11 a.m. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Carole L. Webner, at 12012 Belair Road, Kingsville, MD 21087.

Louise Cole

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 19th at 2:00 pm. in the Chapel at the Oak Crest Retirement community at 8820 Walther Boulevard, Parkville, MD 21234. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship.





IT'S SHOE BOX time again!

Our PHUMC Sunday School will again lead the church in collecting shoeboxes for

Operation Christmas Child.

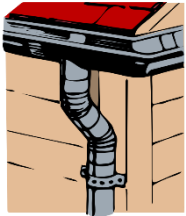
You can learn everything you need to know now at the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child website:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

OCC Shoeboxes are requested at PHUMC anytime before Nov. 21, when Pastor Vic will bless our shoeboxes and we will send them on their way.



Trustee's Report



The Trustees would like to share that the sanctuary has been outfitted with brand new gutters and larger downspouts. All rotting fascia boards have been replaced.

This was a huge project that desperately needed to be completed prior to the winter weather. Rosedale Roofers were contracted to complete the job, and they did a great job in a timely fashion.



Live Nativity Drive Thru



Sunday, December 12th, from 5-7, there will be a drive thru Live Nativity! Santa will be making a special appearance to bring gifts for the

children. In the Spirit of the Holiday, you may also bring non-perishables for our Food Pantry.

Then, continue around the parking lot and stop for some cookies & hot cocoa (or juice), and then finish the drive around while you enjoy the Christmas music and Live Nativity.....**all without getting out of the warmth of your car!** Plan to join us, and don't forget to invite your neighbors and friends!

Bible Study



ADVENT STUDY: "INCARNATION"

By Adam Hamilton

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh.

In "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas", best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

- 1--Presidents and Kings
- 2--The Savior and Our Need for Saving
- 3--Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic
- 4--Light of the World, Word of God, and Lord

This Advent season come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today!

Classes will be held: Monday 7:00 pm
November 22, 29 December 6, 13
Tuesday 12:00pm
November 23, 30 December 7, 14

Books will cost \$10:00 Sign up by emailing Pastor Vic at rovervic@verzion.net or filling out a sign up at church.



Gingerbread House!



Family Ministries is hosting a Gingerbread House Building Activity on Sunday, December 5th, from 10:45-11:45 am in the fellowship hall. What a great way to kick off the holiday season!

Each family will receive one gingerbread house kit to assemble and decorate. Supplies must be purchased beforehand, so putting in a reservation is essential!

Forms are available in the Narthex as well as have been sent out in an email. You can fill out the form and put it in the basket on the Narthex table, or call (or email) the church office to reserve your spot!!!

***Come on out for a morning of fun and fellowship.
Refreshments will be provided!***



An Overview of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Session

by Melissa Lauber



In a culture of anxiety, cascading crises, and a denomination rife with uncertainties, the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference joined in holy conferencing Oct. 25-

27 to proclaim that “We are Still One: Standing, Transforming, Rising.” Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, the presiding episcopal leader, gaveled the online 237th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to order from the Mission Center in Fulton, gathering laity and clergy representing 615 churches in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the panhandle of West Virginia.

During the opening worship service, the bishop addressed the challenges faced by church leaders during the 84 weeks since the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and institutional racism prompted congregations into new ways of being church. “We have not cowered, we have not collapsed, we have not conceded. No, we rise!” Easterling proclaimed in her opening sermon. “We are rising

to claim a new day, rising to model what it really looks like to live, love, and liberate as one. We’re rising to leverage our gifts, blessings, and resources to help others rise as well; rising to grow in grace as we heal the wounds of the past, and in that healing, join hands as the Beloved Community. We are rising, Baltimore-Washington Conference, and don’t’ you let anyone with a contrary, contorted, or conflicted message tell you otherwise. We rise united! The state of our conference is strong. We are still one!”

During the session, members worshipped, uplifted by 87 music videos provided by individuals and churches throughout the Conference. Bishop Easterling commissioned and ordained 27 Deacons and Elders; members celebrated the ministries of 29 clergy retirees, 10 certified lay ministers and 13 licensed local pastors; remembered the saints of the conference who died in the past several months; and were inspired by a wide variety of video reports of ongoing BWC ministries.

At the recommendation of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, the conference members passed a 2022 budget of \$18.1 million, including a mission share income budget of \$13,104,912. To account for financial circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, members also adopted a new way of calculating Mission Shares that uses a three-year average of spending from 2018-2020, rather than just spending from 2020.

And, in more sober deliberations, members voted to close nine churches. The property or proceeds from these churches will be used as a legacy to begin new ministries.

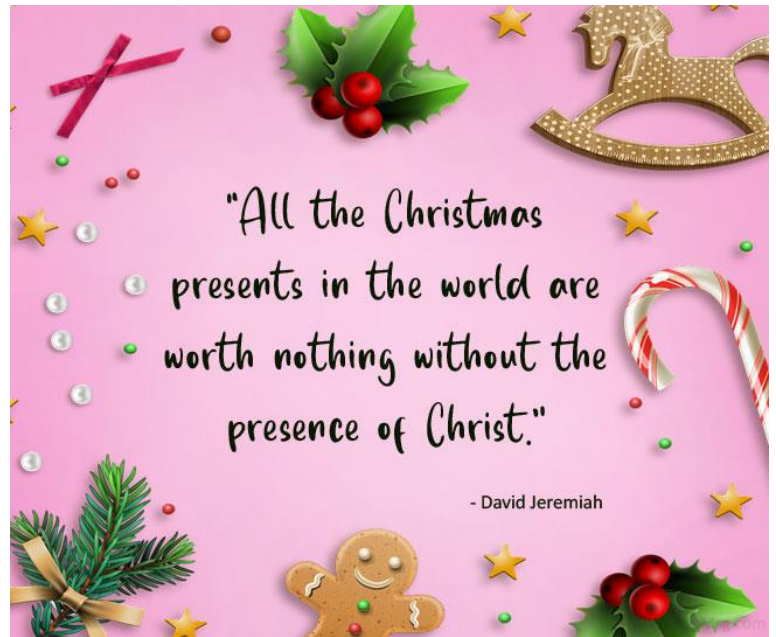
Building on the BWC’s five areas of ministry — Leadership Development, New Faith Expressions, Action and Advocacy, Wellness and Missions, and Young People’s Ministries — members heard a number of reports on growing in discipleship so that 100 percent of churches can become 100 percent vibrant and vital.

Reports from the Discipleship Council and the We Rise United initiative undergirded the conference’s commitment to becoming an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and anti-racist church, and provided information about resources for those involved in this work, which remains a conference priority. *(continued)*

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Members also passed three social action-related resolutions calling for the BWC to become a green annual conference, to endorse an amendment to Maryland's constitution on environmental human rights, and to declare gun violence a public health emergency. A resolution for the conference to endorse the General Conference legislation on the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation was also approved.

The people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Bishop Easterling said, "are standing under the unction and power of the Holy Spirit. Together, we have prayed, planned, strategized, learned, lifted, resourced, rebounded, and re-entered well together. We are still one!"



From the Pastor and Staff of Perry Hall United Methodist Church

Pastor Victor Harner

Don Appel, Music Director/Organist

Denise Boyd, Church Secretary and Contemporary Worship Coordinator

