

March 2024



# *The Perry Scope*

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter  
9515 Belair Road, Nottingham, MD 21236



## *A Message from The Pastor*



March is a hinge month, swinging from one direction to another. I generally think of March as a month straddling two realities: winter and spring. We start the month in one season and end the month in another season. The weather doesn't always reflect that reality, but it is true all the same. My grandmother was a firm believer in the saying, "In like a lion, out like a lamb," and the reverse. She carefully noted the weather in the first few days of March (lion/lamb) so that she could predict the weather at the end of the month (lamb/lion). I never really tracked that, but I suspect

my grandmother believed in an old wives' tale instead of a March reality. This March, we celebrate Easter. That is another hinge moment, the biggest, most significant hinge moment in the universe and of all time. Before Easter, humanity was separated from God. After Easter, humanity has the opportunity to become adopted as God's own. We may not always reflect that reality as well as we could, but it is true all the same. The world may not recognize that reality and may believe all kinds of untruth, but it is true all the same. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are made whole and clean. Our sins are healed, and we are redeemed. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

Blessings,

Pastor Margery





Our Confirmation class is in full swing! We will be meeting for a total of 10 weeks and have already started. Please keep the confirmands, their mentors, and their families, in your prayers.



UMCOR Sunday is March 10<sup>th</sup>. UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. It is the organization in our church which responds to emergencies here in the US and around the world.

UMCOR may not get the publicity which some relief organizations do, but they are first on the scene and the last to leave. Our mission shares (funds which each local church gives to the Annual Conference) go in part to fund the administrative and other overhead costs of this vital organization. Every penny of funds collected for specific responses to horrific events goes to the efforts of that response, because they are supported by all the local churches in the UMC. Special Sunday envelopes will be available for those who want to make extra donations to UMCOR.



by  
Laura Hanna

## BRIGHT FM – BIG SHOUT OUT OF THANK YOU!



On Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> Bright FM held a food drive for our pantry at the Chik-fil-a on Belair Rd - while they were live on the air! The food drive lasted from 6 am – 10 am.

The time may seem early (and it was) but the dj's (Tracey, John, and Tiff) are extremely loved and very popular – and are listened by thousands at that time! While the day started out very foggy and most people were either still at home since the schools were closed or were getting ready for work - the results were overwhelming!

Hundreds of items were donated from scores and scores of listeners! So much was donated that the donations literally filled the bed of a pick-up truck! So many overflowing bags, boxes, cases of donations – from shampoo to peas!

The extremely kind and caring people of Bright FM (specifically, Tiffanie; Tracey; and John) spoke to their listeners and



they responded so generously! You would have been amazed at how many people literally drove to the Chik-fil-A, not for breakfast but to drop off their donations – it was beautiful. The pantry was truly blessed!

But more good news: Bright FM has even offered to hold another food drive for us, on sight at the church, this summer (in August). They will even be doing their show live while the food drive is occurring! We will have more information about the summer event as we get closer to August!

## NUMBERS TELL THE STORY:

Here are the facts that 2023 produced:

Pantry days open: 159 days

Pantry Volunteer hours: Approximately at least 2400 hours

Pantry Food Donations:

- \*From Maryland Food Bank – about 40,000 pounds
- \*From Camp Chapel UMC – at least 10,000 pounds
- \*From the Community (individuals and organizations) – at least 5,000 pounds
- \*From monetary donations/purchases – at least 13,000 pounds
- \*From Weis Bakery (located on Joppa Rd) - hundreds and hundreds of baked bread and desserts. Each week they donated 2 shopping carts filled with 'in- date' baked items!

These donated items represent the weight of frozen meat, non-perishables, and personal hygiene items. These donations came from food drives, monthly food donations, weekly food donations, and monetary donations! While the numbers are staggering what is more staggering is that all of these donations are literally gone and replaced weekly – in other words, the pantry shelves are constantly being restocked! The little pantry goes through hundreds of cases (yes cases) of food every month!



## NUMBERS TELL THE STORY:

January: Families served – 176 families  
Individuals served - 477

The breakdown of ages is almost equal between: 0-19; 20-39; 40-59; and 60 and over.

February (at the time of printing): Families served or scheduled to be served – 185!

March – coming attractions: Families to be served (they are scheduled with an appointment) – 192!!

Our pantry was very busy in January and February, so busy that we actually opened for 2 shifts on several days – this was a first time ever occurrence. The double shifts (9 am -12 noon & 1 pm -4 pm) helped to make sure all the families received their donations – even when Mother Nature was not cooperating! While we

are hoping to not have to continue the double shifts after February, we will if necessary.



**Spreading the word** - The YMCA started a national event called the Y Fresh Mart. It is a food distribution event that helps those families that need some extra help with food needs. The Y Fresh Mart is

held at certain hubs across the nation and one such hub is at the North Plaza Ctr. This particular hub is open every Tuesday, 4 -7 pm and every Saturday, 10 am -1 pm. We are guiding our pantry families to the YMCA at North Plaza Shopping Ctr (8910 Waltham Woods Rd) – so that they are able to get even more help with stretching their grocery budgets.

If you know of anyone that could use some extra help with food, please guide them to the Tuesday or Saturday distributions at the Y Fresh Mart located at 8910 Waltham Woods Rd open on Tuesdays (4 -7 pm) and Saturdays (10 – 1 pm). Please know that the distribution is not like our pantry, the recipients just ‘show up’ and the Y volunteers will be able to assist with information and help.



**THANK YOU!** Every week the pantry is giving out food to approximately 45 families. This would not be possible without the continued support from

you, from the community, from Maryland Food Bank, from so many wonderful and generous people! Thank you!! Your donations fill the shelves, which fill the bags, which fill the trunks to the families that come for help! Your donations make it happen - please know the families are so very grateful and very appreciative.

#### **What do we always need the most:**

**\*\* Soap; shampoo; toothpaste; toilet paper; (we buy about 180 of each every month)**

**\*\* Cereal; pasta; tuna fish; peanut butter; jelly; pasta sauce; soup; crackers; boxed side dishes; canned pasta; ( we buy about 72 -84 of each every month)**



These are the items that we literally buy cases and cases of every month – to help augment the physical items received! While we may buy other items at different times, the items above are consistently bought (approximately every other week). Our favorite stores are Aldi (for non-perishable food items) and Dollar Tree (for the personal items) – but we also go to Wegmans and Walmart – wherever our donated dollars stretch the farthest!

We love food drives for they help keep us from having to ‘shop’ and so wonderful food drives held by social organizations, businesses, and Radio stations are a true

blessing. But like your own personal world, sometimes we have to ‘shop’ to keep the shelves/family bags filled.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO THE PHUMC FOOD PANTRY! You truly make a difference in so many lives!**



**Children & Family Ministry**

We had a great turn out in December for the gingerbread house building for family ministries! We had a recent meeting and children and family ministries are joining forces to plan some fun things for our families in 2024! We are so grateful to have Gloria Barlow and Peggy Winchester joining Debbie Siegert and I to help plan the fun.

We had a fun winter themed craft project on January 28th after church. Everyone had a great time.

There is a Valentine themed “Minute to Win It” game day coming up on February 18th after church in the fellowship hall. We will have snacks too!

Future plans include an indoor mini-golf outing in March, Spring craft in April, Pool party outing in the summer months, back to school picnic in September, corn maze outing in the Fall and gingerbread house building in December.

We also discussed service opportunities for our youth.



**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

*- by Dan Walker*

Greetings! The men’s group has just completed a study about character, including honesty and discipline. We’ll be looking at starting a new study in our next meetings.

The group will be starting a mission project to collect items and assemble Flood Buckets for UMCOR. Look for signs and information on the types of things we need to put these together. These Flood Buckets are 5-gallon buckets filled with a specific list of cleaning supplies needed for people affected by floods. We’ll be assembling these over the next year, and as we get 20-25 assembled, will take them to the warehouse up in Pa. (Mechanicsburg) where they will be stored and then shipped to locations where people are affected. This will be an ongoing mission.

Also, the men will be hosting the Ladies tea the weekend of Mothers Day!. We’ll be looking for assistance from all the men in the church to put this on, including serving tea, and light luncheon fare, along with providing some amusing entertainment for the

ladies!. Look for more information about this and don't be surprised if you get a call or email to ask for help!.



Jeff Raught is a singer/songwriter, pianist, and theatrical storyteller. His music looks to find humor in the biblical story. His original songs dig deep into life, into faith, in both humorous and poignant ways. A delightful mix of characters bring to life the stories he tells. His aim is to untie the knot of humor in life and how much God designed laughter to be a grand part of creation. His set starts around 8:15. The evening begins with an "open mic" at 7:00. The open mic resumes after Jeff's set. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The Folk Music Night schedule, along with additional information, may be found at:

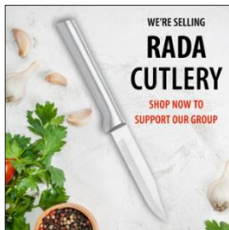
<http://www.folkmusicnight.com/>. Questions may be directed to Neil Zimmerman: 410-529-7176 or [ndzimmer@comcast.net](mailto:ndzimmer@comcast.net) . - *Neil Zimmerman*



★ **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am. Be sure to make your reservations for all your little ones. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, nieces and nephews and grandchildren. There will be crafts to make, games to play, and of course, the Easter Bunny himself will be there! A delicious breakfast will be served featuring scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, sausage gravy and biscuits, mini donuts and muffins, fruit cup/applesauce, home fries and drinks. We end the morning with an egg hunt. We will need lots of help for this event, so be looking for information soon!



### **CHURCH FUNDRAISER**



The PHUMC Ad Council is excited to share an awesome fundraiser with our church family! Our Rada Cutlery fundraiser will run from March 17th through April 14th. And whether you're an avid cook

or hate to cook, there are plenty of products to purchase from. From their well-known kitchen knives, utensils, and baking pans to delicious mixes (dips, soups

– and even CHEESECAKE) and cookbooks, you'll find something for your baking needs.

And the **GOOD** thing is that **PHUMC** Gets **40% of all sales!**

Ordering is simple, with TWO options.

1. You may order on your own online via our church fundraiser link: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=7845749.4ee7a3>. Once placed on-line, your order will be sent directly to your door.
2. Or pick up a catalog in the narthex or church office. Catalogs will be available shortly; orders are due by April 14th, just in time for Mother's Day, graduations, weddings!

And don't just take our word for Rada products. We want you to be happy customers! Come taste-test some of their delicious dips at coffee hour on Palm Sunday!

Please contact Joyce Ziegler (443) 540-6825 with questions.



**(Outside Group Events Not Included)**

### **February**

- United Women of Faith 7 pm
- 2 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
- 3 – Coffee Hour after church  
Memorial Service for Dick & Joan Martin
- 4 – Bible Study 7 pm
- 5 – Bible Study 12 pm
- 6 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
- 7 – WISH Group  
United Women of Faith 7 pm
- 8 – Confirmation Class 6 pm
- 9 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
- 10 – Coffee Hour after church
- 11 – Bible Study 7 pm
- 12 – Bible Study 12 pm  
Trustees Meeting 7 pm
- 13 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
- 14 – Finance Meeting 7 pm
- 15 – Perry Scope article deadline  
Confirmation Class 6 pm
- 16 – Ad Council Planning Meeting \*\*\*\*\*
  - United Methodist Men 7 pm
- 17 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
  - Folk Music Night 7 pm

- 18 – Coffee Hour after church
- 19 – Bible Study 7 pm
- 20 – Bible Study 12 pm
- 21 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm
- 24 – Thrift Shop open 9 am-12 pm
  - Private Party FH 1-5 pm
- 25 – Coffee Hour after church
- 26 – Bible Study 7 pm
- 27 – Perry Scope Mailing 11 am
  - Bible Study 12 pm
- 28 – Choir and band rehearsal 7 pm



**Our policy is to close  
when Baltimore  
County Schools close.**  
If schools delay

opening, morning meetings are cancelled. If schools close early, evening meetings and events will be cancelled at church. On the weekends, the schools may still cancel or delay their weekend events, so please check the Baltimore County Schools website. On Sundays, we may also need to cancel worship and Sunday School if our parking lot is not accessible, regardless of school cancellations- check online or call the church office (voicemail message should have current information). Please check our Facebook and website for all cancellations and delays. Be safe!