



Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7114
www.eumcbeltsville.com

August 1 is National Friendship Day



The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12





The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



AUGUST 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

- + Christians around the world p. 6
- + Church to start counting non-binary members p. 6
- + Churches have role in overcoming vaccine hesitancy p. 4
- + Cooking with Pastor King p. 3
- + Embrace your "next" as part of God's plan p. 9
- + Jo Anne Harrison retires p. 10
- + Kathryn Griffin Retires p. 2
- + Pastor King's Welcome Party p. 5
- + Update from the Re-Entry Team p. 2

Got News? Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com



From the
Pastor's
Desk...

U-Turns

"I'm just a sucker for your love -- for your love! Sucker for love. Sucker for love. Sucker for your love, baby!"

Ah, the Summer of '79 -- an unforgettable time! Rick James sang the hit, "Sucker for Love." Disco ruled the dance floor. New Wave swept the campus. Angie's sister learned to drive!

Lori carefully cruised along the long, narrow expansion bridge that connected Mt. Pleasant and Charleston, SC. Lori's mother had admonished her to be careful, for the bridge was a viaduct of two-way traffic, with changing traffic patterns during certain periods of the day. Just as Lori neared the end of her trek across that bridge, she spied a friend in another car going in the opposite direction. Without any forewarning or hesitation, Lori abruptly -- and illegally-- performed a U-turn in the middle of the bridge!

Lori's sudden U-turn managed to shake up all of us. This would be the summer of U-turns in more ways than one.

Within days of Lori's asphalt acrobatics, a knock came at my door. When I answered, the "holy roller" Christian kids stood there, asking for my roommate Queen.

"She's not here."

"May we wait for her?"

My mind said, "Oh, brother," but my southern hospitality said, "Y'all come on in."

When Queen returned, they began to debate about religion. When the visitors tried to engage me in the exchange, I stopped short of giving them the left foot of fellowship. Although I did not participate in the exchange, I did hear the simple message of the gospel -- that through Jesus Christ lives could be changed. After hearing that good news, I realized that I needed Jesus in my life.

I was traveling across the narrow expansion bridge of existence, when suddenly I recognized Jesus who was going in the opposite direction. I made an abrupt U-turn and decided to follow him.

Continued on p. 3

Update from the Re-Entry Team

By Jane Grays



It has been a long 16 months since we gathered inside the church and we finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. On June 12th we met in the church parking to bid farewell to Pastor Jalene Chase. She will be missed but it is a great opportunity for her to share her ministry with Goshen UMC. It was wonderful being in fellowship with each other as we shared space with the Cicadas.

We had several opportunities in July to celebrate in the sanctuary. On July 7th we had a luncheon to bid farewell to Administrative Assistant, Jo Anne Harrison, who retired after 21 years serving Emmanuel. We will truly miss her and wish the best for her retirement. On July 10th, we had a meet and greet to welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Dr. Andrea King and her husband, Rev. Curtis D. King. We look forward to her visions for EUMC. On July 24th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Kathryn Griffin's retirement. After more than 40 years, words cannot express how much she'll be missed.

The Re-Entry team will meet on Thursday August 5th to review plans for returning to the sanctuary in September. Procedures will be discussed and new guidelines will be taken into consideration. In September our business/community partners will also be permitted to use our facilities, with some limitations. We will review and update room usage agreements and partners will be notified when they are permitted to re-enter. We are concerned about the number of door keys individuals have in their possession which access church property. If you have a key and do not use it, please return to the office.

Kathryn Griffin Retires

After 40 years of providing Emmanuel with beautiful music, Kathryn Griffin is retiring. It's hard to believe when we return to in-person worship in the fall that Kathryn will not be there with us. She has brought us so much joy with her passion for music over the last 40 years. No matter what time of year, whether it be our annual Christmas and Easter Cantatas, Vacation Bible School, or any other service or program at Emmanuel, she always provided us with melodious sounds filling our sanctuary. We will miss Kathryn and wish her many blessings as she moves out of the area down south to begin this new journey.





From the Pastor's Desk continued from p. 1

That's the way U-turns work in life. We're carefully going along. We've laid out our respective destinations, then almost out of nowhere comes an encounter that causes us to perform an unexpected turn-around. For Moses that encounter was a burning bush.

In the midst of a seemingly ordinary day in the life of a fugitive shepherd, God began to speak from a bush. Holy talking tumbleweed!

The situation was simple. Moses had a plan. God had a plan. Moses did a U-turn.

How many times has God spoken to us in the midst of the ordinary and the mundane? How many times have we been challenged to look beyond the limits of our own human frailty so that God might move mightily through us? How many times have we been faced with decisions to continue in life doing things our way or make a U-turn for God?

You have a plan. God has a plan. Why don't you turn?

~Pastor King

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS



Due to the reduction in staff, emails and voicemails will only be answered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during office hours from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Cooking with Pastor King

Adaptable Almond Cookies!

Some people are allergic to almonds so that's why it's "adaptable."

Here is the basic recipe, which can be doubled:

6 TB butter (softened)

1/2 sugar

1 egg white (use whole egg, if recipe doubled)

1/2 tsp. flavoring (almond or vanilla, butter etc.)

2 c. flour (use all purpose, almond, coconut, or Gluten Free, DO NOT USE SELF-RISING)

1/2 c. chopped nuts (optional)

Chill for 15- 30 min (depending on the size of your batch).

Use small scoop or roll into 1 in balls. Press down with thumb.

Bake at 350 F for 15-20 minutes.

This recipe will yield about 2 dozen cookies and doubled yields 4 dozen.

This recipe makes delicious almond cookies, pecan sandies, coconut cookies, or even lemon (depending on the flavoring). Adapt it to suit yourself!



Churches have role in overcoming vaccine hesitancy

By Joey Butler, photos by Mike DuBose (from umnews.org)



Ashlee Hand receives a COVID-19 vaccination from EMT Archie Coble during a clinic at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C., in April. Health experts say many people trust their faith leaders to address their concerns about getting a COVID-19 vaccination.

President Joe Biden has set a national goal of 70% of U.S. adults with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by July 4, and he's hoping that the faith community will help to achieve it.

Currently, 64% of the adult population has received the first dose of the vaccine. Biden declared a "national month of action" in the 30 days leading up to Independence Day and is looking to national and community organizations, including the religious community, to encourage vaccinations.

During a May 26 online summit hosted by Faiths4Vaccines, a national multifaith initiative, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy told attendees, "At a moment where people are casting about and wondering who they can lean on for information ... they look to people they know, to people they trust," and that faith leaders have the trust of their communities.

A concerning trend is that even though vaccines are much more widely available than a few months ago, vaccination rates have been declining. Much of that is due to individuals' medical mistrust and hesitancy to get the shot. This is where churches can play an important role.

"The setting in which you get the vaccine matters because people want to be where they feel comfortable, and churches represent a place of comfort and security for a lot of people," said Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, president and chief executive officer of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. The historically Black medical school is supported by The Black College Fund of The United Methodist Church.

Meharry has served as a vaccination site since January and also operates a mobile vaccine clinic.

"Being located in a predominantly African American neighborhood, medical mistrust is an issue," said Cat Nash, who serves as the clinical lead for vaccinations at the school. "Churches lend credibility, and clergy are a good way to reach out to patients."

Hildreth agreed. "The most urgent need is for someone to get the attention of the people who are holding out, just to answer the questions," he said.

While acknowledging the concerns of those who are hesitant, Hildreth points out that more than 2 billion vaccines have been administered worldwide, "so no one's a 'guinea pig' any more. Adverse effects are extremely rare."

Historical mistreatment of African Americans by the medical community — the Tuskegee experiment and Johns Hopkins Hospital harvesting the cells of Henrietta Lacks being well-known examples — has caused many to have a hard time trusting doctors. Misinformation also can be difficult to overcome. Some are simply concerned about pain or illness caused by the shot.

"The biggest problem is people who hear of a friend who had a bad reaction or rumors, and they get in their head they don't want it," said Nash. "People worry about the side effects of the second dose because they vary so much."

About 65% have no reactions at all, said Carl Wood, president and pharmacy manager of Vax Van by MVS, a mobile vaccination clinic partnering with United Methodist churches in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"When I talk to people about that, it often convinces them it's OK," he said.

Wood said that faith leaders getting vaccinated themselves set an example: "If church leadership takes their shots, someone can say, 'I can feel safe, too.'"

Young people are another group that has been slow to get vaccinated. Siblings Ashlee Hand, 20, and Walter Hand III, 18, have both been vaccinated and worked at an April 30 vaccination clinic held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Charlotte. They said people in their age group often listen to misinformation or think that young people don't have to worry about catching COVID-19.

"A lot of my friends are getting false information, or their parents don't want them to get it. A lot think they have immunity," Ashlee Hand said.

Continued on p. 7

Welcome Pastor King!!!

Emmanuel was excited to welcome out new Pastor, Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, and her husband, Reverend Curtis D. King on July 10th. Members had a time of fellowship and cake as we opened our arms to make our new Pastor feel welcome.

It was a wonderful afternoon filled with fun, conversation, laughter, and blessings.



Change is Constant

There have been many changes at Emmanuel United Methodist Church recently. Most of the changes have occurred in personnel but now the missions program has been affected. It saddens me greatly to report the interfaith Community Ministries of Prince George's County has decided to discontinue the Community Place Café program. The Café was located at First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville. Emmanuel has participated in this program since its inception in 1988.

On a personal note, Community Place Café has been my greatest passion. In 2004 I decided to join the other volunteers from Emmanuel who prepared and served a meal every third Friday of the month to homeless and low income persons at the Café. We served a nutritious chili meal and were lovingly referred to as "the chili ladies." It was such an honor to serve the Lord in this way.

Changes occurred over the past few years, and in 2016, Sallie and I joined forces to co-chair this committee. By the Grace of God, many volunteers at Emmanuel came forward to support the Café financially as well as physically. Soon an awesome dedicated team had evolved to continue to feed the diners at the Café. Angels at Emmanuel donated clothing, towels and toiletries to be distributed among those at the Café to enable them to shower and have extra clothing.

The closing of the Café is indeed sad. Sallie and I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who were part of this mission over the years. It would not have been possible without you. May God continue to bless you all as you continue to serve Him.

Hugs to all,
Elsie Cline and Sallie Rhodes

Church to start counting non-binary members

By Heather Hahn (from umnews.org)

United Methodist congregations in the U.S. will soon have a new way to break down the gender of its members.

By a voice vote June 25, the General Council on Finance and Administration board approved revising local-church statistical forms to include “non-binary” alongside the categories of “male” and “female.”

The change will take effect with forms for the 2021 collection year and will only affect the denomination’s data collection in the U.S.

“We currently only collect local-church statistics in the U.S.,” explained Rick King, the agency’s chief financial officer.

GCFA also plans to ask U.S. annual conferences — church regional governing bodies — to include the number of non-binary clergy in their Business of Annual Conference records. The finance agency expects to send information on these additions to church data collectors in July.

GCFA’s data includes totals — not individuals’ names.

“Non-binary” is a commonly used term for people whose gender identity falls outside the man-woman binary. A study published this month by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law found that about 11% of the LGBTQ adults, ages 18 to 60, identify as non-binary. That translates to about 1.2 million U.S. adults.

The current United Methodist statistical forms ask pastors to tally the number of female and male members and then give a total membership for the two. However, those gender categories have left some members feeling counted out.

The board made the change after hearing from U.S. annual conference treasurers who have responsibility for collecting membership data from local churches.

“We are having issues reporting people with pastors calling our office and saying: ‘What do I do here?’” said Christine Dodson, North Carolina Conference treasurer and the GCFA board’s vice president.

Continued on p. 8



Christians Around The World

Christians around the world will be an ongoing series in the Lamplighter that will talk about how Christians in different parts of the world live and are treated. It's not always a happy story. This month, we are going to look at Christians in Iraq.

Christians in Iraq are one of the oldest continuous Christian communities in the world. Thomas and Thaddeus preached the gospel to the ancient Assyrians. Today they are known as Chaldo-Assyrian, Chaldean Catholics, or Syriac Catholics. They still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Adam and Eve, Abraham, Rebecca, and Daniel either were from Iraq or lived there. Other Christians are Arabic or Armenians. Since the late 13th century Christians and Assyrians have been persecuted because they were Christians or because they were Assyrians or both. They have been mutilated, executed, raped, tortured, beheaded, forced to relocate, or killed in a massacre. Many were killed or enslaved when the Muslims were Establishing their caliphate. In modern times Assyrian Christians have been at the mercy of whoever ruled Iraq. Prior to the Gulf War there were more than a million Christians. Now there are less than 500,000. Saddam Hussein puts some in relocation camps. His deputy, Tariq Aziz, was Christian. His Christian name was Mikhail Youhanna. He probably gave some protection to all the Christians. So does Jack Daniels. Muslims are forbidden to drink or sell alcohol, therefore the liquor stores are owned or managed by Christians. They were left alone. Every terrorist group has persecuted Christians. They were told to pay a tax, convert, or die. Some people were shot on the street if they had a Christian name.

Nikki, a New Zealander, Worked in Baghdad for the Australian embassy when Saddam Hussein was in power. She made friends with Christian Iraqis and would bring them reading material secretly hidden in a basket covered with fruit. She is now a pastor. Most Christians stayed in their own neighborhoods, kept their heads down, and their mouths shut. There are beautiful Christian churches in Baghdad and people are allowed to worship, but not always. It depends on the politics and who is on top.

Vaccine Hesitancy from p. 4

Walter Hand said a few of his friends have gotten vaccinated, and he tries to encourage others to do the same. “I tell them that I think getting the shot has allowed me to do more things, to feel safer going out,” he said.

Similar hesitancy issues exist in the Latino community, often due to misinformation. Many have concerns that they will be asked for proof of citizenship in order to get the vaccine, leading to concerns that large numbers of undocumented immigrants will remain unvaccinated. It may also be uncomfortable for non-English speakers if no one who speaks their language is present, so having translators on hand is a must.

Churches are reaching out to other marginalized communities as well.

New Hope United Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa, hosted a vaccination clinic organized by the Filipino American Society of Iowa. Geared toward the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, the clinic featured interpreters in five languages.

The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference has partnered with federal Indian Health Services units to provide vaccines to Native Americans.

According to the Rev. David Wilson, superintendent of the conference, demand for vaccines has dwindled drastically — to the point that the state is about to lose thousands of doses to expiration.

“Yesterday I was at the site for an hour and there were only four people,” he said. “Oklahoma will be far below the levels we need to reach. I don’t know if people have just lost interest or think they’re in the clear.”

Churches and tribes are doing campaigns to educate and urge people to get vaccinated.

Wilson, who serves on the board for the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, said it is offering vaccinations at a weekly meal for the homeless, a Native American charter school, even a farmer’s market in town.

“I’m trying any place when I see sites or events where there will be large numbers of people,” he said.

Though hesitancy seems to be the largest barrier, practical issues of inequity also exist for many communities. It may be difficult to take time off from an hourly job. Many struggle with transportation issues or may be homebound and living alone.

Churches that have been hosting vaccine clinics at their buildings may have to live by the motto of “meeting people where they are” by venturing into the community.

At its online summit, Faiths4Vaccines listed a number of practical ways churches can break down barriers and hesitancy and increase vaccine access.

Some of the suggestions for churches include:

- Offering transportation to clinics or sponsoring mobile clinics to travel to underserved neighborhoods;
- Canvassing door to door in the church’s community to share vaccine information;
- Hosting informational events and open conversations about the vaccine;
- Recording testimonials about why people chose to receive the vaccine and sharing them on social media.

One barrier that concerns Hildreth is the reality that a person’s political views may drive their reasoning not to take the shot. The virus, he notes, “is agnostic to your political affiliation.”

“Any persons who could effectively engage this group in that conversation, we need them to do so, and to do so soon,” he said. “If we don’t get that remaining 30 to 40% of people vaccinated and the virus is allowed to run through that group, there’s still the danger of variants arising that the vaccines don’t do much for.”

Though vaccines are available to most everyone in wealthier countries, there is significant inequity in poorer nations — an issue Hildreth said the church should speak out on.

“The rich countries of the planet need to buy the vaccine and give it to the countries that can’t afford it, because none of us are safe until all of us are safe,” he said. “As a global population, we need everyone vaccinated.”



If you need to get a vaccine, the picture on the right shows 3 locations within 1 mile of Beltsville. Give them a call and set up your appointment today. You can find more information at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

1. CVS Pharmacy, Inc. #01495	0.21 miles
11729 Beltsville Dr, Beltsville, MD 20705	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Stock	
2. Khandagle Medical Associates	0.90 miles
11886 Healing Way #505, Silver Spring, MD 20904	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Stock	
3. CVS Pharmacy, Inc. #16502	0.90 miles
12000 Cherry Hill Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Stock	

	Members with ethnic origins in indigenous America (including Aleut, Inuit, Micmac, Ojibwa, Mayan, Miskito, etc.) and/or who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.	
5e	Pacific Islander Members with ethnic origins in the Pacific Islands (including Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Marianas, Micronesia, Papua, Polynesia, Samoa, Solomon and Tonga, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu).	5e
5f	White Members with ethnic origins in Europe, including its various ethnicities.	5f
5g	Multiracial Members with ethnic origins in two or more of the other six categories.	5g
5	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ETHNICITY (5a+5b+5c+5d+5e+5f+5g = 5 = 4)	5
On the following lines, report for each member the gender with which she or he identifies. The total of the numbers entered in these two spaces must equal the membership total in Line 4.		
GENDER	6a Female	6a
	6b Male	6b
	6 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GENDER (6a + 6b = 6 = 4)	6
ATTENDANCE & BAPTISMS	7 Average Attendance at all weekly worship services Report average in-person attendance at all services held on a consistent weekly basis as the primary opportunity for worship. Count all persons (including children) who participate in part of any of these services. Do not include online worshippers nor attendance from irregularly held special services (i.e. Christmas Eve services).	7
	7a Number of persons who worship online Report here average weekly number of unique viewers who access worship online. This includes those live streaming your worship service and views/downloads of recorded worship services (audio or video), sermons, and/or podcasts. Do not include generic hits/visits to your website.	7a
	8a Number of persons baptized this year ages 0-12	8a
	8b Number of persons baptized this year ages 13 or older	8b
	8 Total number of persons baptized this year (sum of 8a + 8b)	8

Non-binary continued from p. 6

“Quite frankly, I’ve had a pastor tell me, ‘I’m not going to force a person to choose one or the other when they have told me how they identify.’”

Sharon Dean, GCFA’s chief communications officer, said that the agency gets requests for information from various United Methodist groups about gender distribution.

“We’ve also heard from around the connection that some annual conferences and some other organizations are already using a third choice,” Dean said. “And so to be consistent with requests that come in, we might include this additional selection.”

Of the 18 GCFA board members present, only one board member voted no to the change.

“I’m appreciative of the recognition of all God’s people, but I am also cautious that we are making a decision that appears to affect less than half our global constituency,” said the Rev. Steve Wood, who is also lead pastor of Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church in Johns Creek, Georgia.

“I’m just wondering if we are creating more

During a June 25 online meeting, the General Council on Finance and Administration board voted to update local-church statistical forms to include the option of non-binary under the category of gender. This change only affects the U.S. Excerpt of the current church statistical form highlighted for emphasis by UM News.

angst than we are creating benefits, so I have to speak against it.”

Per-Endre Bjørnevik, a board member from Norway, is chair of the Connectional Outreach Committee that recommended the revision. He as well as board members from Côte d’Ivoire and the Philippines voted for the change.

The statistical-form revision comes as The United Methodist Church faces a possible split after decades of intensifying debate over same-sex weddings and the ordination of “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy.

The Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book, says all people are of sacred worth but states that “the practice of homosexuality” is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

However, GCFA staff confirmed that adding non-binary to the forms does not conflict with any paragraph in the Discipline. Board members also concluded the change is not in conflict with any legislation related to sexuality heading to the pandemic-delayed General Conference, now scheduled for 2022.

The Discipline takes no stance on the ordination of non-binary or transgender people. In 2019, the Rev. M Barclay became the first openly “non-binary trans person” to be ordained a United Methodist deacon, according to Reconciling Ministries Network. The network advocates for full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life of the church. “While it will take much more substantial change in policy and practice for the UMC to be a positive force in the lives of queer and/or trans people, I celebrate the effort of those who are striving to honor the existence of non-binary people in their communities,” Barclay said by e-mail. “Lives depend on this seed of change being nurtured in all contexts.”

Non-binary identity is still a new concept to many people, acknowledged California-Nevada Conference Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño. In the spirit of learning together, she suggested adding a commonly held definition of what non-binary means to statistical forms.

“I know for me, it’s been a journey of learning,” she said.

Dean said she would work with the agency’s data services department to add the definition.

Dean and others cautioned that whenever a form change takes place, it takes a while for church leaders to send in additional data.

Ken Ow, a board member from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, also cautioned that pastors should not try to guess how people identify as they report local-church data.

Board members largely spoke with support for the change.

“I think it reflects that the church is aware that it’s a reality,” said the Rev. Sandra Olewine, who starts July 1 as a district superintendent in the California-Pacific Conference. “And it is a way for the church, even in its forms, to begin to acknowledge more of the fullness of who we are as human beings.”

Embrace your 'next' as part of God's plan

Commentary by the Rev. Olu Brown (from umnews.org)



The Rev. Olu Brown.
Photo courtesy of the author.

On Sunday, May 16, I stood on the stage at Impact United Methodist Church and shared with the world that I was retiring from pastoring in the local church.

This was a big announcement. Immediately afterward, I was flooded with calls, texts and emails with words of congratulations, shock and surprise.

Although hearing the announcement may have seemed like a single moment for the viewers, for me it was part of a long journey that began at the age of 13, when I was given the opportunity to serve in my hometown church praying and reading Scripture. The opportunity the pastor and church gave me set into motion a wonderful journey of global and passionate ministry that was more than I could have ever imagined at 13 years old. So, when I gave my announcement, it was not one moment, but it was the millions of moments that I had experienced over a 30-year period.

We can never assume that life happens by chance or luck. Rather, we are part of a larger and grander plan that God Almighty has for us, and each moment we experience is a moment of grace and favor.

During my retirement announcement, I cast the vision around the idea and philosophy of Normalizing Next and how we can embrace life and live life to the fullest right now, if we aren't afraid of next and how God wants to use us in the future. It's all about seeing next as normal and being prepared for the future instead of being anxious. In other words, we choose faith over fear, hope over despair and abundance over lack.

I have had the great fortune of being a church planter and serving as the lead pastor of the church plant called Impact for more than 14 years. I knew from the very first day as the founding pastor that the time would come when I would have to say goodbye to my role as the lead pastor and my role as a pastor in the local church. Although coming to this awareness was not easy, it was possible because I fully embraced my next and refused to get stuck in now.

Sometimes people can never transition into what God has for them next because they are not willing, or prepared, to release now.

Isaiah 43:19 CEB is one of the most powerful Scriptures in the Bible, speaking not only to Israelite exiles living in Babylon but also to modern-day believers stuck in now: "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness." The very first word, "Look!" is enough to release inspiration within the soul of the receiver to remind them that there is more to life than now or here, because God is calling you to next and there.

Since making my announcement, I have been blown away with the number of people who have been inspired by my decision to make next normal and not abnormal and are applying the inspiration of the decision and the inspiration of Normalizing Next to their personal and professional lives. They are awakening to the promises of God on their lives, and they are daring to "Look!"

Normalizing Next is more than a pastor making a decision to retire or a dynamic church named Impact daring to navigate the change and transition of a founding pastor. It is a movement of hope and inspiration declaring and decreeing that life is meant to be lived and fully embraced in times when we are sure and in times when we are unsure. Life is meant to be lived with curiosity, faith and risks, knowing that God is doing a new thing within you and the world you live in.

My prayer for you is that you choose to live and not just exist. That you choose to thrive and not just survive. That you choose eternal joy and not temporary happiness. You have a choice today. I made my choice, and I am living my next. I hope you choose your next and make it normal and not abnormal. I will see you in your next.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS FOR WELFARE
AND NOT FOR EVIL,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE
AND A HOPE.

~Jeremiah 29:11



Jo Anne Harrison Retires after 21 years at Emmanuel!

Emmanuel Administrative Assistant, Jo Anne Harrison, retired from Emmanuel on July 1. She has faithfully served our church for 21 years. A luncheon was held for her on July 7. Many members of Emmanuel stopped by to wish her luck. We thank Jo Anne for all her hard work over the years and wish her and her husband blessings on their new journey.



Keep up with the all the latest info on our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville

How Can I Give?

Online: You can now give online through Emmanuel's website at www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving or scan the QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can't come to church. If you have any questions, contact Kemi Oluwafemi.

Through the Mail: You can mail your offering to the church. The address is 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



CAN YOU HELP?

Share your talents at Emmanuel by sharing the Word as a Scripture Reader during our Sunday Zoom Service! Help for a single Sunday or choose several. You choose how many Sundays you are able to help. Just email the office at office@eumcbeltsville.com and they will let you know which weeks are available! No experience needed! We will train you on the job!

Christian Love and Sympathy To:

Abel Martin on the death of his father, William and his aunt in Liberia.

Madea Baio on the death of her father in Liberia.

Sonia Kassambara on the death of her father in Sierra Leone.

**"May God's peace
and love lift you
from sorrow."**

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

1. Chris Butcher, Preston Elliott II
2. Levi Martin
7. Hannah Butcher, Theodore Martin
8. Michael Belshay, Jr.
9. Carmen Amaya Barahona, Gregory Stiggers
10. Elmo Webb, Lynette Wray
13. Aidan Cruz
14. Breanna Williams
18. Grant Midkiff
22. Lynne Miller
23. Andrea Onukwubiri
25. Christopher Pavelka
26. Katie Kaufmann, Alice Mabry
29. Helen Akers, Cheryl McBride Hoch
31. Justin Huneycutt

HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

6. Doug & Len Weston
10. Patricia & Ralph Guynn
31. Rebecca & John Cavallo



Please pray for our sick and shut in

- Homebound
Harry Cottman
Norma Hall
Carolyn Scarcia
Dottie Gilbert
Out of state
Lil Mizzer



Virtual Worship at Emmanuel! (UPDATED INFORMATION)

Join us on Sunday mornings in virtual worship through Zoom. Join us for 30 minutes of fellowship from 9:30-10 am followed by worship at 10. Use this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97839889289?pwd=YzUxZjJKTzUybTJnZEt4UC9qTkI4QT09>

or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting.

The meeting number is 978 3988 9289. The Password is EUMC

You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592

If you're calling on the telephone the information is

Meeting ID: 978 3988 9289 Passcode: 479360