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The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!

May You be happy. May You be well. May You be safe. May You find comfort. May You have strength. May You have courage. May You have peace. May You have joy. May You be filled with loving kindness. MAY YOU BE BLESED Pale TODAY & Always.

MAY 2021

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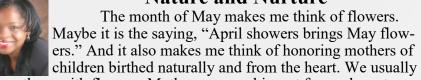


WHILE I PO AGREE THAT YOUR IPEA IS QUITE INNOVATIVE I JUST PON'T THINK THAT THE CHURCH IS READY FOR A CARNIVAL APPROACH TO BAPTISM

Got Do you have something for News? our newsletter? Send items to the editor,

From the Pastor's Desk

Nature and Nurture



honor them with flowers. Mothers are our biggest fans, advocates, and disciplinarians. Through the ages, it was the mother that instructed the child. In places where the community was close knit, it was one mother that cared for children while others worked. In some faith traditions, there are "Church Mothers" who are sought for their wisdom. Whatever the role, or journey to motherhood, they deserve the honor.

One of the early, universal, life lessons mothering figures taught was knowing right and wrong. In Genesis, it is good and evil. It is a test of faith to embrace the right and good, while shunning what is wrong and evil. We are taught to live by God's standards and not humankind, because humans will mess up. Micah 6:8 says, "The Lord God has told us what is right and what He demands; let mercy be your first concern and humbly obey your God." That demand is part of the foundation that we are taught in a Christian Home. If we do not learn it at home, there are people in our Church Home who are willing to journey with us to bring us up in the way that we should go.

The debate about what is more important, nature or nurture, to me, is senseless. Both make for a well-rounded person. Nature relies mostly on inherited traits. If we are a challenging person, we will need nurturing to develop into a pleasant person. Nurture relies mostly on time spent improving a skill. That means there must be a basic desire inherently within us to want to improve. Why are these two things put against each other? One we cannot control because it is heredity and lineage (nature). The other we commit to and develop through time and effort (nurture).

If humans are inherently or naturally sinful, don't we need nurturing over time to be our best selves? I am glad that God does not listen to our foolishness and that he nurtures us. This month, I am encouraging us to focus on balancing the degree of nature and nurture needed to be a good example for others to follow as we lead them to Christ. Both are needed to make us the best witnesses of the goodness of God agape' love. And they are needed to receive the natural and nurturing mother's love.

Blessings this month and Happy Mother's *Every-*Day.

Pastor



Just A Foster Parent

By Pastor Chase



The phrases "just a foster parent" and "just a foster child" always annoy me. Using "just" in that way minimizes the role we play, and the commitment that we make, as insignificant. It implies that we merely, only, or simply, play a small part, indicating that what we do is not important. When a child is identified as "just a foster child," it dehumanizes them, lessens their value, and makes them feel undesirable. Those comments are counter to what we, my sister and I, believe as Christians. It is an oxymoron because it contradicts the definition of "foster," which is to encourage, promote, nurture, and develop.

When our oldest niece died at 25 years old, she left two small daughters. Two years later, her father, our oldest brother was killed. When her mother could no longer raise our grandnieces, they were put in the foster care system. My sister was called as part of the process. My sister and I sold our condominiums, bought a home, and committed to raising them. Kinship Care began our 17-year journey with the Child Welfare System. Over the years we have done respite, foster care, and now guardianship.

As Christians, our faith guides our decisions. That means we behave according to what is morally right and fair. We operate according to standards. We do what is right; we do want is just. It is a call on our lives. We raise, cherish, nurture, and encourage positive growth while promoting healthy development for children that we did not give physical birth to. We tell them that they are birthed from our hearts. God has plans for them, like all of God's creations, and expects us to treat them justly. It is a responsibility that we do not take lightly. They are God's precious gifts to our future. They may have had a different start; it is our desire to help them work towards a great finish.

You may start hearing the term "resource parent" used interchangeably with "foster parent." I like "resource." The definition encourages me to advocate so that assets, actions, strategies, support, and revenue are available to a child or children. With resources, children can function effectively, with purpose, and they benefit from things their former situation may not have provided.

The pandemics have increased the need for homes that will encourage, promote, nurture, and develop a child. Every Child Deserves A Home. If you have room in your heart and home to be a "A Just Resource Parent," we work with a great agency. Consider calling or contacting CONCERN: 301.429.2370, CONCERN4KIDS.ORG, for information. Tell them I sent you. Blessings.

News from Nan McCurdy



GYTTE will host a Virtual Mission Journey on April 30, May 3, 5, and 7. All Journeys start at 12 Noon EST and include four 2-hour zoom meetings. Through this experience, you can get to know GYTTE and some of the staff. Because of strict Covid rules, we have very few visitors. Thankfully, Covid numbers are down from a high in January. At the Tree of Life Training Center, more than a year ago, a group of health promotors started a new ecological toilet. It's now finished and some beautiful local rock was used. Catalino and staff have trained many people to build ecological toilets. Two of

the women who work at the Center have been caring for and beautifying the grounds so there will be many more places to plant. The Silo room for the animal food is finished which means the food will last longer. Miguel, Carlos and his son Daniel, who was visiting, installed a solar pump system to move water from one spring-fed pool to another that feeds the fish pond. Daniel and Salatiel milked the goats. Lore makes delicious goat cheese and the milk and cheese are sold. We're happy to report that two of the goats recently had babies. Friends of Nan and Miguel's visited and made a donation to help 10 families install appropriate technology rope pumps which makes pumping water easier. Nan, Miguel, Clara, Cata, and all the staff thank God for you and your love for the Mexican people and for GYT-TE's work.



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

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A Transitioning Ministry

By Dela Martin



The ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) Ministry has been active at Emmanuel United Methodist Church for the past 13 years. The Covid 19 Pandemic brought the program to a halt but a core group of volunteers are committed to relaunching the ministry in a new online format. If we can attend church on Zoom, why can't we use a similar online platform (Google Meet) to provide the greatly needed service of English language conversation to our neighbors in Beltsville?

The task at hand seems daunting. How are we going to engage the students who we had lost touch with in March? How are we going to keep students from getting lost in a sea of faces in the Zoom squares? How are we going to

learn and teach the technology involved with logging in and starting presentations? The answer lies in a simple bible verse that can be turned to when faced with a difficult task.

In Phillippians 4:13, Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This quote is displayed prominently in one of the classrooms of our church's educational building. It is a reminder that we are not alone in our mission work. We need to rely on God's grace and guidance to endure challenges and progress towards reaching our goals.

There have been setbacks but God has guided us to try other ways when we hit a brick wall. For example, we sent out a survey to our past students over email and received only one response. However, we reversed this disappointment by making phone calls to the students and received a plethora of responses that many were still interested in learning English online with us.

One by one, these obstacles are melting away. We have access to the Google Meet platform and the breakout room feature that will allow the teachers to work with a small group of students. We have had practice meetings with teachers to learn how to use special features in Google Meet technology. We also had a test class with intermediate level students and we are getting ready to start up online sessions in May.

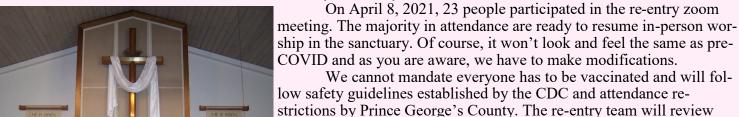
The goals of the ESOL Ministry are to promote:

- -A sense of cross-cultural communication and understanding in our community.
- -An educational environment where people can improve their language skills.
- -A new virtual space for people to socialize and feel a sense of community.

We are looking for people from our church to volunteer as English language conversation leaders and tech facilitators. If these goals strike up any interest in you, please email me at dela.martin@emmanuelumcbeltsville.net. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Update from the Re-entry team

By Jane Grays



your suggestions and establish procedures and number of volunteers necessary to return to in-person worship.

Every week several volunteers will be needed so we can move forward to return. If you have not done so as yet, or update your

availability, please complete the survey form
(https://forms.gle/PRhdbnmKBKebt4yf7) so we can identify those who will serve. It will help us to begin planning the timeline for returning. Thank You!



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is important to reach out to anyone who has been isolated during the pandemic with or without mental health disorders. The anxiety created from the negative events over the last year have caused many more to see professional help. The suicide prevention hotline is 800-273-8255 or call 911 if faced with a crisis. Feel free to join the ZOOM speaker on May 4 as shown on this flyer. The Beltsville DBSA support group is part of the DBSA National Capital Area and is a ministry supported by Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

To register go to https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrceuuqTwpHNWdUhYYF7t0P1XYXHLmQ6UC



NOBODY'S NORMAL

How Culture

of Mental Illness

ROY RICHARD GRINKER

DBSA National Capital Area

Is pleased to announce:

Roy Richard Grinker, Ph.D.

Author of "Nobody's Normal:

How Culture Created the Stigma of Mental Illness"

In conversation with

Phyllis Foxworth, Advocacy Vice President for the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 -- 7:00 - 8:30 pm EST - via Zoom

Nobody's Normal argues that **stigma** is a social process that can be explained through **cultural** history, a process that began the moment we defined **mental illness**, that we learn from within our communities, and that we ultimately have the power to change. This conversation will explore how we understand these issues today and ways that peers can address them.

Roy Richard Grinker is Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at the George Washington



University in Washington, D.C. Grinker was born and raised in Chicago where his great-grandfather, grandfather, and father worked as psychoanalysts. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1983 and received his Ph.D. in Social Anthropology at Harvard University in 1989. He is the author of *Nobody's Normal: How Culture Created the Stigma of Mental Illness* (NY: W.W. Norton, January 2021) and *Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism* (NY: Basic Books). Grinker

is also the author of numerous other books in the field of anthropology. He was a 2008 recipient of the National Alliance on Mental Illness KEN award for "outstanding contribution to the understanding of mental illness" and the 2010 recipient of the American Anthropological Association's Anthropology in the Media award for "communication of anthropology to the general public through the media."

Phyllis Foxworth is the Advocacy Vice President at the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. After being diagnosed with a mental health condition in early adulthood, Ms. Foxworth continues to live in wellness and facilitates a weekly DBSA Family & Friends Support Group. Ms. Foxworth directs the organization's national advocacy strategy with a focus on strengthening mental health parity laws and compliance, broadening adoption of peer support services and development of the peer specialist workforce, and ensuring that patient-desired treatment outcomes are adopted and integrated throughout the entire health care eco-system.

Register in advance for this program:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

Note that this program will be recorded.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrceuugTwpHNWdUhYYF7t0P1XYXHLmQ6UC

DBSA National Capital Area - A chapter of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
P.O. Box 341191, Bethesda, MD 20827-1191 240-780-8706 hello@dbsanca.org

www.eumcbeltsville.com

May 4th is known as Star Wars Day. In honor of this day, here is an article from UMC.org on why we love Star Wars so much.

WHY DO WE LOVE STAR WARS?

By Ryan Dunn



Aren't we tired of Star Wars yet? It's been around for over 40 years. The franchise is older than most of its fans. Its reach is deep. I'll soon watch the latest movie in my home while sitting in my Star Wars-themed PJs, drinking milk out of my 35-year old Han Solo collector's cup and trying not to notice the Santa-hatted Darth Vader ornament I forgot to put up with the rest of the Christmas decorations. You might think I've had enough, right?

Disney doesn't think so. They continue to push out Star Wars content because sci-fi fantasy patrons like you and me continue to consume it. And, despite the complete cultural saturation and some disappointing movies, we continue our entertaining escapes to a galaxy far, far away.

With each new movie or show, many of us hope to see the franchise redeemed to its former state. We hope to see the storylines capture our creative flights of fancy as they once did--most likely when we were children. Our longing for actualized nostalgia keeps us buying tickets and merchandise.

The latest trilogy of movies (that is, The Force Awakens, The Last Jedi and The Rise of Skywalker) made sure we knew, though, that re-establishing a line to the past was not, in fact, the way forward. These movies affectionately, though sometimes abruptly, put the past to rest.

Really, they sealed off as much of the past as they could. Our favorite old characters died. Some characters,

like Darth Vader and Obi-Wan Kenobi, never came out of retirement. Perhaps, most poignantly, the hopes of restoring the galaxy to our nostalgic expectations blew apart when lightning burned a sacred Jedi tree.

In a meaningful scene in The Last Jedi, ancient Jedi Master Yoda appears to Luke Skywalker as Luke debates what needs to happen to the Jedi order. Luke tells Yoda that he's going to "burn it all down." Yoda calls his bluff and summons lightning to strike a nearby sacred tree that houses several sacred Jedi texts. The power of the scene suggests there is no going back to how things were. We won't move forward by restoring the past.



Yoda and Luke Skywalker in Star Wars: The Last Jedi.

Yoda used The Force to summon the tree-burning lightning. The Force is one of the aspects of the Star Wars universe that excites many of us. The Force is a mysterious power. It exists in the world around our characters. But it also exists as a power within the characters. This power provides capabilities we otherwise thought impossible. We love that idea--especially when many of us struggle with feelings of powerlessness and inadequacy.

Luke felt inadequate. In these later movies, his conflict centers on his disappointment in not having been able to restore the past. While he once was able to restore his father to his "true" former identity, Luke felt he failed at restoring the Jedi order. In his frustration, Luke quit, retreating to a hidden world containing historical texts of the Jedi order. Luke was near to the past and not participating in the future. He seemingly decided to fix the past or blow it away. Instead, Yoda erased Luke's decision with a lightning strike, setting Luke free to become the Jedi of the future.

Luke demonstrates a religious devotion to the Jedi order. Many of us harbor feelings towards religion similar to Luke's feelings towards his order. His conflict is the same conflict overshadowing our own feelings about faith. We long for restoration.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) "

But the Christian story is not one of restoration. The Christian story points towards re-creation, newness and redemption. We are told that all who are in Christ are a new creation -- the old has gone, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Luke longed to erase the mistakes of the past. In the scene of the burning tree, Luke and Yoda hold a revealing conversation about Luke's mistakes. Yoda points out that mistakes are valuable lessons -- both for Luke and for those who will come after him. Yoda suggests the best state of existence is not a restoration of what once was, but rather, a historically-informed movement towards what could be.

Continued on Page 6



Star Wars continues from page 5

While Yoda and Luke watched the sacred tree burn, Yoda gives his old student one last lesson: "We are what they grow beyond--that is the true burden of all masters." It's a reminder the past is not perfect. It's also a message of hope. And hope drives much of what we find truly lovable in the Star Wars story: there's hope that friendship, goodness, community and perseverance are not merely altruism. They overcome selfishness, divisiveness, greed and hate. Perhaps what really appeals to us in the Star Wars story is that love triumphs, even against tall odds.

Star Wars provides us an anecdote of hope. For those of us who hold an expectation that love will, in the end, triumph over all the brokenness of the world, Star Wars continues to feed our creative expectations and reminds us to keep looking ahead.

Film puts Korean Americans center stage

By Jim Patterson
Originally published on umnews.org



Gordon Yu (left) and Julian Kim record a scene for the film "Happy Cleaners," which examines the lives of working-class Korean Americans. Photo by Janice Chung.

United Methodists Julian Kim and Peter Lee didn't see their lives represented in Hollywood films, so they did it themselves.

"Happy Cleaners," an independent film set in the diverse Flushing neighborhood in Queens, New York, is about a Korean American family that owns a struggling dry-cleaning business. It is available to stream on Apple TV, Amazon, iTunes, Google Play and YouTube.

"I think when you see images of Korean Americans depicted on screen, they're always the kind of side character ... and definitely stereotyped," Kim said. "Sometimes it's a model minority, a very kind of silent (person) who works hard and achieves big dreams."

In addition, Asian Americans have faced attacks recently because some mistakenly blame them for the spread of the coronavirus. These assumptions aren't the reality, the filmmakers said.

"We're struggling working-class Americans like many of you out there," Lee said. "So, let's just connect on that level. I hope that we're able

to share that a little bit (in 'Happy Cleaners')."

The film is a low-key slice of life story about the Choi family, who are struggling to keep their business afloat against challenges including a new condescending landlord, rude and threatening customers and some family dissension. Daughter Hyunny, played by Yeena Sung, works as a nurse at a hospital and helps the family financially. Son Kevin, played by Yun Jeong, is a talented cook who dreams of moving to Los Angeles for a fresh start as part of the food truck scene there.

The film could be an advertisement for Korean cuisine: The food is photographed beautifully. "Food is a way of saying, 'I love you,'" Lee said. "Love is expressed through sharing the meals, so that's exactly how the role of food in the film is depicted."

The matriarch of the Choi family, played by Hyanghwa Lim, has strident opinions on the careers and love lives of her two children. She is probably the favorite character for Asian Americans, Lee said.

"Every time Mom comes up, everybody is laughing because I think there are things that seem like their own mother," he said.

"They all know she means well."

The movie features no physical violence, although some of the treatment the family endures from aggressive customers at their business is cringe-inducing.

"For Korean-Asian-immigrant Americans, it is an authentic story of our community that does not really exist in the mainstream media, where we are usually caricatured, stereotyped and often denigrated as one-dimensional characters," said HJ Lee, a producer of the film and founder of KoreanAmericanStory.org, which helped finance "Happy Cleaners." HJ Lee attends HA:N United Methodist Church in Manhattan, which is also the home church of Peter Lee.

Continued on p. 8



At Emmanuel, May has been the month for the Women's Communion Breakfast for a long time. Although it hasn't happened because of the pandemic, May is still a month to celebrate all the women at Emmanuel. Here are some photos from the Women's Communion Breakfast through the years.





























Film from p. 5



Filmmakers Peter Lee (left) and Julian Kim discovered their love of filmmaking through the youth ministry program at First United Methodist Church in the Flushing neighborhood in Queens, N.Y. Photo

"As a Christian, I am proud of the aspirational themes of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation embedded in this film," HJ Lee said.

Although The United Methodist Church is not mentioned in the film, members of the denomination were instrumental in getting it made.

"All the co-writers and producers met, grew up and were nurtured at First United Methodist Church in Flushing," said the Rev. Charles Ryu, the pastor of Morningside United Methodist Church in Manhattan, who also plays the role of the Choi family father in the film.

"(Julian Kim and Peter Lee) discovered their love of art and filmmaking through the creative youth ministry that First United Methodist Church provided," he said. "Their youth pastor utilized film and filmmaking as integral means of youth ministry."

The Flushing church served as the base of productions during the 21-day shoot and was used as a setting in the film.

"I've been very active in church since I was, like, 14," Kim said. "There's a lot of immigrant families (in Flushing), and financially they're kind of strained, and with that comes not a completely happy family environment."

His parents preferred him to be at church instead of "wandering around the streets"

as they worked long hours.

"That's where I kind of became really involved because I loved the community there," Kim said. The role of religion and the church in "Happy Cleaners" is subtle, Ryu said. "It's in the background," he said. "You see them praying before meals. They talk about church, and when they need help, they get help from a fellow member of the same congregation."

Kim is an editor and producer for ABC News Digital, and Peter Lee runs two small production companies. Though they've released short films as part of the Flushing Web Series, "Happy Cleaners" is their feature film debut.

In addition to the funding from KoreanAmericanStory.org, the project benefited from two fundraising galas and a Kickstarter campaign, Kim said.

"Koreans from around the nation kind of chipped in," he said. "A lot of people just chipped in a dollar here, \$10 there. ... So we did the best with what we had."

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CLEANERS

Photology, NY

HOUR AM | 3 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

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M T W Th F S Thank You

KOREANAMERICANSTORY.ORG

JEBBY PRODUCTIONS

The movie "Happy Cleaners" is available to stream on Apple TV, Amazon, iTunes, Google Play and YouTube. Courtesy of Jebby Productions.

The film is ultimately about "family love," Peter Lee said. "Unfortunately, today we live in a world where divisiveness is still present, and so we want to share a story about taking moments to appreciate the loved ones around you and make efforts to communicate and understand each other. ... Find redemption maybe, survive together and hopefully thrive together. And celebrate life."

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES



The church needs someone to adopt the rose bed by the patio and cross in front of the church. It is showing signs of neglect. This ia a great way for someone to help the trustees and make the church even more beautiful. The Trustees would support anyone who is willing to take it on. If you would like to help out, contact the office for more information.



WE ARE THE CHURCH

This Month's Member is Alice White





How long have you been a member of Emmanuel? I joined Emmanuel in 1990.

Who was the Pastor when you began attending Emmanuel? Reverend Dick Karpal.

What is your fondest memory of being a member?

The fun of helping put on an indoor Christmas program that had a bazaar in the hall, Angels telling about the coming, three wisemen in the sanctuary and at the end of the hall Mary,

Joseph, baby Jesus and kids dressed as stable animals. That was so much fun.

What ministries have you been involved with at Emmanuel?

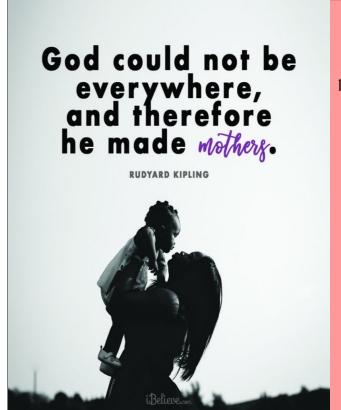
I belong to UMW. I have worked with the monthly food ministry and Community Place Café. I do the shopping as well as serving the food. I have worked on the pastor/church group, helped with youth ministry; participated in various Christmas shows/plays, and been a greeter and liturgist. I also took Raulin's bread and church info to people that visited our church and helped with the funeral food serving and prep.

What is your favorite thing about Emmanuel?

I love Emmanuel for the kind, warm and endearing people I've met and the Church Angels that have taken me under their wings. Emmanuel is family and community for me.

What is your favorite scripture?

Ecclesiastes 3: For everything there is a season, A time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.



Thank God for Mother's Love

~ Anonymous

There is no love, like a mother's love, no stronger bond on earth... like the precious bond that comes from God, to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong, never changing for all time... and when her children need her most, a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers, God bless them every one... for all the tears and heartache, and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over, a mother's love lives on... through many generations, with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers, for they love with a higher love... from the power God has given, and the strength from up above.

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:

The family of Louis Yiallouros (owner of Yia Yia's Kitchen in Beltsville)

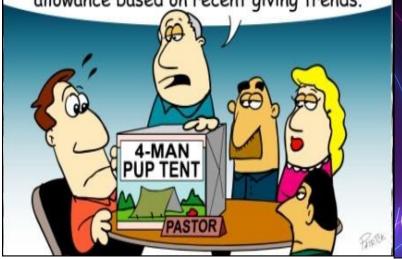
The family of George Herr (cousin of Sally Rhodes husband)

The family of Christopher Stanton, Margaret Stanton's son. The family of Eugene Jones, former fire dept. member in Beltsville.

The family of Tony Rodriguez (friend of Pastor Lenora) The family of Raymond Harlston (Theodora Taylor's Uncle)

The family of Tommy Zook (friend of Rick Bergmann)

The church board decided to set your housing allowance based on recent giving trends.





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 4. Lynne & Robert Miller
- 6. Karen & James Mackey
- 15. Nancy & Michael McNealy

Please pray for our sick and shut in Homebound

Harry Cottman Norma Hall Carolyn Scarcia Dottie Gilbert

Out of state
Lil Mizzer

The Pastor is available for appointments on Tues. & Thurs. Email office@eumcbeltsville.com or call 301-937-7114

Virtual Worship at Emmanuel!

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://us02web.zoom.us/j/85125785976?
pwd=bExodVh2SE5XckxGVjB3N3A0ZFd2UT09

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

The meeting number is 851 2578 5976. The Password is 850888You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592