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The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Lord God, help us to remember those who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign lands, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes. We lift up to you those who are escaping persecution and conflict, having fled death, torture or ruthless exploitation. So many carry wounds, mental and physical. So many have suffered greatly.

Lord Jesus, give us more of your compassion for their plight, soften our hearts to their situation, and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf. We pray for an end to the wars, poverty and human rights abuses that drive desperate people to become refugees in the first place.

We give thanks for people working in troubled countries and ask for more of your blessing so we can bring life, dignity and hope to those that remain. We thank you that you are Lord of all the earth and all its people are loved by you. We pray these things in the name of your Son who was himself born into the troubled life of a refugee.



The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



MARCH 2025

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



From the
Pastor's
Desk...

A Penny for Your Thoughts

Have you heard the news the United States Treasury will stop minting pennies? It is a little ironic considering that as we enter into the Season of Lent that we are engaging in a traditional practice of collecting coins. As a spiritual discipline of us as Christians, we give up something we value in order to set aside those unspent "coins" as a sacrificial offering at the Easter Sunday Service.

The Bible has eight scriptures specifically regarding coins. As you prepare for Lent, Ash Wednesday begins March 5 and Easter is April 20; thus, there is a scripture for each of the seven Wednesdays of the Lenten Season and one scripture for Easter Sunday when the collected coins will be presented as an offering. Therefore, I invite each of us to delve a little deeper into one scripture a week through reflection and meditation. Also, consider who could you invite to share in this contemplative process with you?

You will discover that reflecting upon these coins will provide "added value" in terms of your understanding of what these coins symbolize, especially if you decide to do a bit of digging into the deeper meaning of the coins, after which you may decide to share your thoughts with others.

Pastor King

PENNY FOR YOUR
THOUGHTS...



Coins for Lent 2025



During Lent, we are reminded to examine our lifestyles and ask, "What can we do for others?" Part of faith formation at any age is compassion and serving our neighbors. Lent is a good time to commit to giving money to a project that helps people in need. Follow the "Coins for Lent Giving Calendar" on the next 2 pages as a guide.

The goal is to put a coin in the jar for each thing on the list daily. Decide which coin you would like to do. You may want to contribute a quarter for every item on the giving calendar. You may want to collect loose change and give whatever coins you

have for each item, it's entirely up to you. We will provide you with a special collection jar that you can turn in on Easter Sunday.

Items on the daily guide (see below) remind us of all we have and how little others may have. Each Sunday, pray for the project and the people who will benefit from your gifts. Our giving will begin on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Saturday. During Lent, Sundays are for worship and praise to God and are reflected with a weekly day of prayer.

DAILY GUIDE

March 5: Ash Wednesday—A coin for every lamp (Playlist song, "Fix You" by Coldplay).

March 6—A coin for every light switch.

March 7—A coin for every candle.

March 8—A coin for every flashlight (including the one on your smartphone).

March 9—Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness. (Playlist song, "Rise Up" by Andra Day).

March 10—A coin for every room in your home.

March 11—A coin for every electrical outlet in your home.

March 12—A coin for every chair in your home.

March 13—A coin for every window in your home.

March 14—A coin for every bathroom in your home.

March 15—A coin for every bed in your home.

March 16—Pray today, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night. (Playlist song "Head Above Water" by Avril Lavigne).

March 17—A coin for every box of cereal.

March 18—A coin for every can of soup.

March 19—A coin for every type of bread in your home.

March 20—A coin for every jar of jelly.

March 21—A coin for every bottle of salad dressing/condiment.

March 22—A coin for every jar of peanut butter.

March 23—Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food on this day. (Playlist song, "Cling to Christ"/"Lights of Home" by U2).

March 24—A coin for every box of BAND-AIDS®.

March 25—A coin for every bottle of vitamins.

March 26—A coin for every bottle of Tylenol in your house.

March 27—A coin for every tube of Chapstick.

March 28—A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste.

March 29—A coin for every cough drop/throat lozenge in your house.

March 30—Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick. (Playlist song, "Rainbow" by Kacey Musgraves).

March 31—A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment.

April 1—A coin for every electronic video game.

April 2—A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.).

April 3—A coin for every television.

April 4—A coin for every doll or stuffed animal.

April 5—A coin for every board or card game.

April 6—Pray today, thanking God for how you can enjoy entertainment in your home. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of the items you found this week.

(Playlist song, "Cover Me in Sunshine" by P!NK and Willow Sage Hart).

April 7—A coin for every ball cap or hat.

April 8—A coin for every pair of shoes.

April 9—A coin for every pair of jeans or pants.

April 10—A coin for every coat.

April 11—A coin for every t-shirt.

April 12—A coin for every sweatshirt.

April 13: Palm Sunday—Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry. (Playlist song, "You Will Be Found" from Dear Evan Hansen).

April 14—A coin for every Bible.

April 15—A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home.

April 16—A coin for every cross in your home.

April 17—A coin for every prayer you say today.

April 18—A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell.

April 19—A coin for every person in your family.

April 20: Easter Sunday—Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected, so that they will see God's presence through them. (Playlist song, "Light of A Clear Blue Morning" by Dolly Parton).

March 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			5 Ash Wednesday Song: "Fix You" A coin for every lamp.	6 A coin for every light switch.	7 A coin for every candle.	8 A coin for every flashlight (include your smartphone).
9 SONG: "Rise Up" Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness.	10 A coin for every room in your home	11 A coin for every electrical outlet in your home.	12 A coin for every chair in your home	13 A coin for every window in your home	14 A coin for every bathroom in your home	15 A coin for every bed in your home
16 SONG: "Head Above Water" Pray today, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night.	17 A coin for every box of cereal	18 A coin for every can of soup	19 A coin for every type of bread in your home	20 A coin for every jar of jelly	21 A coin for every bottle of salad dressing/condiment	22 A coin for every jar of peanut butter
23 SONG: "Cling to Christ:" Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.	24 A coin for every box of band-aids	25 A coin for every bottle of vitamins	26 A coin for every bottle of Tylenol in your house	27 A coin for every tube of chap stick	28 A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste	29 A coin for every cough drop in your house.
30 SONG: "Rainbow" Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.	31 A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment					

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 A coin for every electronic video game.	2 A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.).	3 A coin for every television	4 A coin for every doll or stuffed animal.	5 A coin for every board or card game
6 Song: "Cover Me in Sunshine" Pray today, thanking God for the entertainment in your home. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.	7 A coin for every ball cap or hat	8 A coin for every pair of shoes	9 A coin for every pair of jeans or pants	10 A coin for every coat	11 A coin for every t-shirt	12 A coin for every sweatshirt
13 Palm Sunday Song: "You Will Be Found" Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.	14 A coin for every Bible.	15 A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home.	16 A coin for every cross in your home.	17 A coin for every prayer you say today.	18 A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell.	19 A coin for every person in your family.
20 Easter Sunday Song: "Light Of A Clear Blue Morning" Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.	21	22	23	24	25	26

Special Services During Lent

Last year during Lent a series of services were held each Wednesday at different United Methodist Churches in Beltsville and Laurel. We are continuing this tradition this year beginning on Ash Wednesday, which is on Wednesday, March 5. The schedule of services is below. Each Wednesday will feature a guest speaker or pastor from one of the participating churches. The participating churches are as follows:

Emmanuel United Methodist Church: 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church: 7410 Old Muirkirk Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church: 3592 Whiskey Bottom Rd. Laurel, MD 20724

St. Marks United Methodist Church: 601 8th St, Laurel, MD 20707

Schedule



Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday (2 services)

Noon: St. Mark's UMC

7:00 pm: Queen's Chapel UMC

Wednesday, March 12

7:00 pm: Emmanuel UMC

Wednesday, March 19

7:00 pm Mt. Zion UMC

Wednesday, March 26

7:00 pm St. Mark's UMC

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 pm Emmanuel UMC

Wednesday, April 9

7:00 pm Mt. Zion UMC

Holy Week: April 14-18

Friday, April 18: Good Friday Service

7:00 pm Queen's Chapel UMC

Sunday, April 20: Easter Morning!

6:30 am Sunrise Service at St. John's Episcopal Church (11040 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705)

10:00 am Easter Celebration and Service at Emmanuel!

Scout Spring Mulch Sale Has Arrived!



Members of Emmanuel, Spring is right around the corner and Boy Scout Troop 1033 will hold its 38th annual Troop Spring Lawn and Garden Products Fundraiser with a deadline of March 22 for orders and delivery day on April 5. Please consider ordering your lawn and garden supplies from Beltsville's Boy Scout Troop 1033. All of the information and order forms are on pages 22-23. Copies will also be available in the hallway!



The Monthly Potluck is Back!

The United Women In Faith are bringing the Monthly Potluck beginning in March. Each month there will be a potluck on Sunday after service. Bring a main dish, side dish, or a dessert to share. The next potluck will be Sunday March 9!

A Guest Writer's Perspective on the Federal Layoffs

by Rev. Laurie Gates Ward

This article is written by Rev. Laurie Gates Ward and published with her permission. She is an Ordained Elder and pastor of Good Shepherd UMC in Waldorf, MD.

In the early to mid-1980's, my father was the Project Manager for the Space Shuttle program at Vandenberg AFB in Lompoc, CA. He was a government contractor with Martin Marietta and their task was to design a launch pad at the SLC-6 site so that the shuttle could launch from Vandenberg. This site had originally been chosen for the launch of the Titan rocket but it was determined to not be a good site for that project. My Dad's team was asked to engineer the site for the shuttle in hopes that it would solve the problem of launching from Kennedy Space Center and landing in California at Edwards AFB.

After several years, it was determined to not be an ideal site for the launch due to a number of factors. I remember standing at SLC-6 with Dad after he shared that we would be moving back to the DC area since his project was coming to a close. I asked why the government had spent so much money on a project that didn't work. His answer has never left me:

"The project was not a waste. People had jobs and purpose. We may not have been able to solve some of the issues that we hoped we could solve but in the end this project fed families and provided a livelihood for people and this community. It is the job of government to give people jobs and purpose."

Over 200,000 Federal workers have lost their jobs in the last three weeks. These are good people who have been living out the idea of civil service....to offer one self to serve for the benefit of ordinary citizens and to address their concerns. In some cases, they were given little or no notice and in some cases were told that their work was 'harmful to our nation'.

Whatever side of the aisle you are on, I ask you to consider what it says about us as a nation when we no longer value the service of people who in many cases have given years of their lives to the concerns of ordinary people and causes. Shouldn't one of the primary roles of government be to ensure that people can work and provide for themselves and their families? Shouldn't government understand that to deprive people of a right to work means that they will depend on that same government for safety nets of welfare and medical and food assistance? To say nothing of what depriving people of work does to the mental health of workers and their communities.

There is also great purpose to the work being done and when you remove people, positions and programs from the work of civil service so many others will suffer. If you think you will not be impacted, you do not understand the work of our civil service.

This is not a partisan issue to me. It matters not to me which President or party ignores the needs of the people of this country. I will call them out. Today I call out those who think that those who are civil servants and those who are served by them are part of some 'parasite class' (Elon Musk's own words). I also call upon those who are elected to stand against this to do so. And I pray that God would raise up a prophet to lead us all into a more excellent way, regardless of party or ideology.

I still remember my Dad's words and they are still true today. It is the job of government to give people jobs and purpose. I would add it is the job of government to respond to the concerns of the people. Because no matter what level of government one is working within or leading, they are a servant of the people.

Thank you to the Boy Scouts for a Wonderful Scouting Sunday

Emmanuel traditionally celebrates Scouting Sunday on the 2nd Sunday in February, which this year was on February 9. It was wonderful having the scouts of Troop 1033 and their families join us in worship. The scouts presented the flags and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Scout Master Jenny Kresge told us about all of the wonderful things the scouts are doing.



Thank You To Everyone Who Donated Soup and Crackers To The Valentine's Day Care Packages!

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Valentine's Day Care Packages! We were able to collect and make over 30 packages this year!



Spending Valentine's Day At Emmanuel!



The Seven Last Words of Christ Scriptures:

First Word: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

Second Word: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43

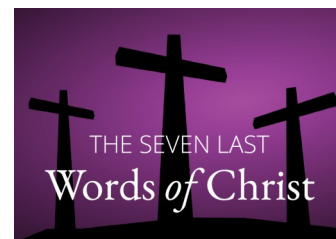
Third Word: "Woman, here is your son...son, behold your mother." John 19:26-27

Fourth Word: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" Mark 15:34

Fifth Word: "I thirst." John 19:28

Sixth Word: "It is finished." John 19:30

Seventh Word: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46



Preparing For Lent

LORD, JESUS. As the holy season of Lent draws near, we come to you for help. There are so many more things we need to know and even more that we need to understand.

Cleanse our hearts as you wash away our sins with Your Holy and Precious Blood that You shed for us on the cross.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to open our minds and our understanding so that we can begin to grasp the magnificence of Your Love for us.

Amen.



USAID freeze strikes Africa University

By Jim Patterson
Feb. 10, 2025 | UM News



An instructor and student share a teaching microscope at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in 2017. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

United Methodist aid efforts in Africa are suffering, and thousands of employees aren't getting their paychecks, after the Trump administration froze funding to the federal agency that provides aid and development help around the world.

A 90-day freeze on foreign aid was imposed on the inauguration day of President Trump. The freeze shuttered worldwide programs at the United States Agency for International Development. Now thousands of agency employees are on administrative leave, its Washington headquarters closed and its website shut down.

At Africa University, a pan-African United Methodist university in Zimbabwe, programs researching malaria and tuberculosis were halted and staff members on those efforts were no longer getting their paychecks. In Zimbabwe alone, 25,000 people were affected by the freeze, said James H. Salley, president and chief executive officer of Africa University.

"The United States is the largest contributor of humanitarian aid in the country of Zimbabwe," Salley said. "Some people are not eating; they have no idea where their next dollar will come from."

The freeze had an immediate \$1.2 million impact on Africa University, Salley said. On malaria research alone, 30 people aren't getting their salaries.

"Our shared United Methodist values compel us to help and not hurt the most vulnerable in our midst, which includes our global neighbors," said Bishop Julius C. Trimble, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

"For the U.S. to abruptly renege on its congressional commitments to fund extremely vital programs for the most vulnerable in the world by withholding life-saving food and medicine from children, the sick and elderly is astounding, shameful and deeply un-Christian."

Trimble added: "Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'"



A student works in a science lab at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in 2017. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Efforts to counter the USAID cuts were limited at Africa University to education in its spheres of influence "to help make them aware of how dire things are when USAID is not up and running in the country of Zimbabwe," Salley said.

In addition to the 90-day freeze, the Trump administration, led in part by businessman Elon Musk, has made plans to shut down USAID and possibly move its functions under the U.S. State Department.

President John F. Kennedy established the United States Agency for International Development by executive order based on authority given in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. In 1998, U.S. Congress enshrined USAID as an executive agency under U.S. law.

Many legal experts say only an act of Congress could eliminate USAID, and they add that the current dismantling of the agency by Musk and others in the Trump administration violates U.S. law.

In the past year, the agency has worked to alleviate poverty and disease in more than 100 countries, often in coordination with faith-based partners.

On Feb. 6, The New York Times reported the Trump administration's plans to reduce the number of USAID workers from a staff of more than 10,000 to about 290 positions. That same day, officials learned that about 800 awards and contracts administered through the agency were being canceled. As of Feb. 7, almost all of the agency's direct hires were put on administrative leave and its roster of foreign service officers given 30 days to return to the U.S.

Africa University's employees are primarily locals, so they are not affected by the call to return to the U.S., Salley said.

Salley is planning to fundraise to help alleviate the damage, but he said he doesn't think he can raise \$1.6 million to completely compensate for the loss of USAID funds.

"The immediate thing that comes to my mind is when COVID hit, we had individuals who provided gifts specifically to keep people working," Salley said. "So that's what makes me optimistic. I believe in people and folk coming to our assistance."

Trimble suggested people concerned about the situation help by contacting Congress's switchboard at 202-224-3121 and telling U.S. representatives to restore "the funding for the United States Agency for International Development and save lives."

Salley declared himself optimistic that a solution would be forthcoming.

"We have come this far by faith," he said. "With man, it's impossible, but with God, all things are possible. ... When other folk counted us out, when other people, when other governments and when other regimes said 'no,' God said 'yes,' and I believe that now.

"We stand on what God has done once, God will do again. So that's why I'm optimistic."

United Methodists join suit against Trump policy

By Heather Hahn
Feb. 11, 2025 | UM News



United Methodists have joined with Christian and Jewish groups in filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security seeking to reverse the Trump administration's policy allowing ICE to raid houses of worship. The religious groups say the policy is an intrusion on their ministry and worship. Image by Sergei Tokmakov, Esq., courtesy of Pixabay.

United Methodists have joined with more than two dozen Christian and Jewish bodies in filing a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration policy that allows immigration enforcement within houses of worship.

Specifically, the case seeks to reverse the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's policy permitting ICE agents to carry out immigration raids in "sensitive locations," such as schools, hospitals, synagogues and churches. Instead, the suit wants to prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement from intruding on ministry without judicial warrant or special circumstances.

The lawsuit, filed Feb. 11 in federal court in Washington, D.C., argues that the new policy interferes with core Christian and Jewish beliefs. The policy also violates both the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the suit contends.

The United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race as well as the denomination's New York, North Georgia and Western North Carolina conferences are among the groups bringing the legal action.

The Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, Religion and Race's top executive, said United Methodists have an obligation to resist injustice.

"It's a biblical mandate for us to welcome the foreigner, to care for them," he said.

He pointed to directives to welcome the stranger throughout the Old and New Testament, including Jesus' words in the Gospels. [The United Methodist Social Principles](#) also urge care for immigrants and refugees.

"It's a biblical understanding that we are placed with this responsibility to care, protect and love our neighbor."

But at this time, he said, local church ministries are at risk for the work they are doing with migrants.

"It's not only through providing worship experiences; it's also about providing pastor care, about English as a Second Language classes; it's about food pantries," Arroyo said.

"It's about all these other elements that are connected to immigrant siblings that now are in jeopardy because of the sensitive-location removal."

He said more United Methodist ministries wanted to join the case, but the constraints of the lawsuit limited the number of plaintiffs. Each United Methodist body is a separate legal entity under federal law.

The 27 plaintiffs also include the Christian denominations of the Mennonite Church USA, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Episcopal Church, the Friends General

Supporting refugees

The Christian and Jewish lawsuit seeking to protect ministries with immigrants comes a day after Church World Service, a United Methodist partner, filed a lawsuit to restore refugee resettlement in the U.S.

The suit challenges President Trump's [executive order](#) suspending the U.S. refugee resettlement program as well as the efforts by the Trump administration to withhold critical, congressionally-appropriated funding for refugee processing and services. The new federal litigation, filed in a district court in Washington State, asks the court to declare the executive order illegal, stop its implementation and restore refugee-related funding.

Church World Service joins in the legal action with [HIAS](#) and [Lutheran Community Services Northwest](#).

Read [Church World Service press release](#).

To learn more about the litigation on sensitive locations, read [United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race press release](#).

Conference (Quakers) and the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Unitarian Universalist Association is another plaintiff.

Also joining the suit are three Jewish branches — Union for Reform Judaism (the largest Jewish movement in the U.S.), Reconstructing Judaism and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To learn more about the litigation on sensitive locations, read [United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race press release](#).

“They bring this suit unified on a fundamental belief: Every human being, regardless of birthplace, is a child of God worthy of dignity, care, and love,” the suit states. “Welcoming the stranger, or immigrant, is thus a central precept of their faith practices.”



Hundreds, including United Methodists, march for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the Dream Act on Sept. 8, 2017, in Nashville, Tenn. For United Methodists and other faith communities, care for immigrants is core to their mission. File photo by Kathleen Barry, UM News.

In filing the suit, the groups are working with [Georgetown Law's Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection](#). The institute also is involved in a case [that has led to a judge putting an indefinite hold on President Trump's plans to eliminate birthright citizenship via executive order](#).

“The rescission of the sensitive-locations policy is already substantially burdening their religious exercise,” Kelsi Corkran, the religious groups’ lead counsel and the institute’s Supreme Court director, said in a press conference.

“Congregations are experiencing decreases in worship attendance and social service participation due to fears of ICE, and they’re put in this untenable position.”

She said houses of worship now must choose whether to continue to welcome undocumented people into their places of worship or expose people to the risk of arrest and deportation.

The new Homeland Security policy, initiated on President Trump’s first day in office, disavows any “bright line rules regarding where our immigration laws are permitted to be enforced.” Instead, Homeland Security leaves it up to ICE agents’ discretion whether they enter houses of worship and other traditionally protected areas.

The policy rescinds 30-year-old guidelines for immigration enforcement rooted in a concept of “sanctuary” that goes back to the medieval church. The legal protection offered by sanctuary even plays a role in the novel “The Hunchback of Notre-Dame.”

“The Church has long been a sanctuary for all and Church property is a sacred space where the faithful gather to worship, serve and find community in Christ without fear,” said Western North Carolina Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr., in a statement.

The Western North Carolina Conference joins the lawsuit, he added, “to affirm that our churches must remain the dwelling places of God, who has set them apart for peace and sanctuary, where the rights of all who enter are upheld, including the rights of the Church to fulfill its mission.”

Churches already have seen the new policy in action.

In the Trump administration’s first week, ICE agents arrested more than 4,500 people, including nearly 1,000 people in a Sunday “immigration enforcement blitz.”

One arrest took place at a Pentecostal church in Georgia during worship service. Christianity Today reported that the man and his family, who came to the U.S. fleeing violence in Honduras, had previously turned themselves into authorities to seek asylum. Authorities outfitted him with a GPS-tracking bracelet and allowed him to pursue his case.

Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia already has dealt with federal authorities coming to its door three times this year.

The multiethnic, 330-member church, in partnership with the city of Philadelphia, provides a drop-in shelter for homeless people. Agents, saying they were with Homeland Security, have showed up seeking information on the people using the shelter.

The Rev. Robin Hynicka, the church’s lead pastor, told United Methodist News that church leaders explained to the agents that the church’s contract with the city requires that the privacy of the church’s guests be maintained.



"I can't say they were looking for an undocumented person or whether they were looking for someone they suspected of a crime. I have no idea. They had no warrant," Hynicka said.

On Feb. 11, the church's board of trustees passed a resolution outlining its practice of requiring valid search or arrest warrants for law enforcement to enter the building. But even in such an event, the resolution states, that the church still will consult with legal counsel first to ensure such warrants are valid.

The resolution states that "it is the desire of the Board of Trustees to ensure that such actions are conducted in a lawful manner consistent with constitutional protections."

After Trump's first election in 2016, Arch Street United Methodist Church offered sanctuary to a husband and father, who was in the process of qualifying for legal status that he now has. Today, he owns a tree-trimming business.

The congregation has publicly declared again its willingness to be a sanctuary church. The church's board of trustees passed another resolution Feb. 11, affirming its stance "that this right to provide sanctuary is essential to the free exercise of religion and must be respected as such."

Hynicka stressed that the executive orders Trump signed have created a climate of fear far beyond church walls.

"People are afraid to come out of their houses to go shop or to take their kids to school," he said. "It creates a public safety hazard. They're afraid to report crimes. And life still goes on, and life isn't always beautiful for folks who are vulnerable."

The new policy affects not only congregations that declare themselves places of sanctuary but all congregations in the U.S., said the Rev. Carlos Malave who leads the Latino Christian National Network, another plaintiff in the suit.

After all, churches generally don't check people's immigration papers before welcoming them to worship.

Bishop Thomas Bickerton leads the New York Conference that is home to many immigrant congregations both within New York City and in surrounding communities, and he said many parishioners are scared. Just as the Statue of Liberty still lifts her torch over New York Harbor, Bickerton encourages United Methodists to serve as a beacon of hope in a frightening time.

"I just would encourage all United Methodists to really look deeply at who we are as United Methodist people, how our theology informs our actions, and that this is a time when the integration of theology and action really needs to come to the forefront," Bickerton said. "The time is now for us to take an aggressive posture of what it means to love God deeply and love

our neighbor thoroughly and offer places of welcome, refuge and safety for anyone who has a longing or a need for wholeness in their lives. This is a time for United Methodist people to act."

The United Methodist Church's ministry, purpose and witness depend on the ability to worship freely and peacefully, said the Rev. Rodrigo Cruz, assistant to the bishop in the North Georgia Conference.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to join so many Christian and Jewish denominations in making this reasonable and sound request in order to achieve our mission," Cruz said in a statement. "Finally, we are thankful for a country built with checks and balances, that allows us the opportunity to pursue a necessary appeal that speaks to the core of our existence."

Church advocates for at-risk immigrants

By Jim Patterson
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A couple recounts the threats of violence that caused them to flee Mexico with their 1-year-old child in this 2018 file photo. The family took shelter at the Christ United Methodist Ministry Center in San Diego while seeking asylum. United Methodists continue to speak out against Trump administration policies that target undocumented immigrants. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

United Methodists continue to speak out against measures put in place by the Trump administration to make it easier to deport undocumented immigrants.

There have been words of warning, encouragement and some practical advice on what to do when ICE agents knock on church doors looking for people to deport.

“The president’s proposed plan to deport millions of immigrants highlights a question of moral significance if we claim that we want to do no harm,” said Bishop Julius C. Trimble, the top executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, during a Feb. 10 webinar, “Solidarity with the Sojourner: Understanding U.S. Immigration and Our Call to Respond.”

The webinar was hosted by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, in collaboration with the Commission on Religion and Race, Immigration Law and Justice Network, the Council of Bishops Immigration Task Force, El Plan for Hispanic/Latine Ministry and United Methodist Communications.

The webinar took place a day before Religion and Race as well as the denomination’s New York, North Georgia and Western North Carolina conferences joined with more than two dozen Christian and Jewish bodies in filing a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration policy that allows immigration enforcement within houses of worship.

“Jesus does not give us the example of building walls and excluding the poor and the sojourner on the move,” Trimble said.

That ideal became newly urgent with the beginning of the second term of President Trump, who returned to the White House last month after defeating then-Vice President Kamala Harris. He immediately started issuing executive orders on many topics, one of the most prominent being immigration.

“Trump announced a series of executive orders and an emergency declaration that expand the detention machine and our country’s will and capacity to carry out mass deportations against immigrants,” said Melissa Bowe, an attorney and co-executive director of the Immigration Law & Justice Network, a United Methodist ministry.

“(Immigration Customs and Enforcement) is arresting multiple people at their homes, on the streets, in a public place, workplace or business,” she added. “Immigrant-owned businesses are particularly being targeted, as are businesses that are known to employ immigrants.”



Bishop Julius C. Trimble. Photo by Tessa Tillett for the Indiana Conference.

ICE is doing “collateral arrests,” which means anybody in the vicinity of an ICE raid who is presumed to be undocumented is detained, Bowe said.

“It’s not just affecting undocumented folks with criminal histories. It is scooping up anyone, sometimes including United States citizens.”

The United Methodist Church’s stance on immigration is outlined in the revised Social Principles adopted by last year’s General Conference.

The document states: “We urge United Methodists to welcome migrants, refugees and immigrants into their congregations and to commit themselves to providing concrete support, including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support. We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees.”

Significant executive orders that impact immigrants include:

- **Rescinding the sensitive locations memo:** “That memo was established in 2011 and it discouraged ICE from entering certain places, like places of worship, schools and hospitals,” Bowe said. “But now, through that executive order, we are seeing ICE enter these locations or wait in the parking lots to pursue immigrants of interest to them.”
- **Suspending refugee resettlement**, which has brought people legally to the U.S. for decades including Vietnamese and Afghan people who at great risk aided Americans in wartime.
- **Challenging birthright citizenship:** “It essentially instructs government agencies to stop issuing citizenship documents like passports to children born inside the United States on or after Feb. 19, 2025, if the father was not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, and the mother is undocumented or has temporary status such as a student or work visa,” Bowe said. “On Jan.



Melissa Bowe. Photo courtesy of the Immigration Law & Justice Network.

Watch webinar

To watch the “Solidarity With the Sojourner: Understanding U.S. Immigration and Our Call to Respond” webinar recorded on Feb. 10, visit ResourceUMC.org.

23, this directive was put on pause at least temporarily, ... by a federal court judge. The judge called the executive order blatantly unconstitutional, because the 14th Amendment to the Constitution guarantees that everyone born in the United States is a United States citizen. So there is an injunction. We're going to see how this plays out."

- **Possibly taking away "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" status:** DACA provides temporary relief from deportation and work authorization for eligible undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.
- **Pursuing expedited removal of non-citizens:** "The government can now use a fast-track process to deport undocumented immigrants who cross the border between ports of entry," Bowe said. Ports of entry are designated locations where you're allowed to lawfully enter the country.

The crackdown on undocumented immigrants has a strong element of racism, said the Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race.

"Immigration policies and enforcement disproportionately affect people of color," Arroyo said. "Xenophobia, racism and cultural biases shape the way immigrants are perceived and treated in our communities. Too often, black and brown immigrants are criminalized, their dignity diminished, their humanity questioned."

The Virginia Conference has offered guidance for churches who may be visited by ICE officers looking for undocumented immigrants, including:

- Have a crisis communication plan ready to execute, accounting for a variety of scenarios.
- Have a point person on campus at all times. This is the only person that should interact with agents.
- Have a notification plan so personnel are notified that agents are present. Tell agents that you need to let employees, volunteers, etc., know they are onsite for security reasons, particularly if there is a school at the site.
- Keep a list of immigration attorneys and organizations that you can give to those affected.



The Rev. Giovanni Arroyo. Photo courtesy of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race.

- All persons who witnessed the encounter should provide their narrative of what they witnessed.
- If there is security camera footage of events, secure the footage to ensure it is not erased.
- Have an experienced spokesperson to talk with the media.
- Consider having a crisis firm on retainer if you have a large immigrant ministry, staff or a private school.

“Persecution, wars, violence of every kind, economic poverty, climate change — they’re all contributors to this forced migration of sojourners on the face of this earth and in this United States,” said retired Bishop Minerva Carcaño, who leads the bishops’ Immigration Task Force.

“So many ... siblings, these brothers and sisters who are sojourning, are living in existential fear. Men, women, young people and children are living in the fear that at any moment they will be separated from their loved ones and will never be able to see that mother, that father, that child, that grandmother, that uncle, ever again.”

Jesus said to “welcome the sojourner,” Carcaño added. “For in welcoming the sojourner, you welcome me.”



Retired Bishop Minerva Carcaño.
Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Use this link if you wish to attend virtually: <https://bit.ly/3SVutjU> 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



**ONLINE
BIBLE
STUDY**

Virtual Bible Study

Join us online for Bible Study on Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8 pm. Come and discuss the Bible and learn from each other and other Emmanuel folks! No preparation needed! You just need to log on! Go to <https://bit.ly/3PPrgjE> to join us. The Meeting ID is 929 3284 2856 Passcode: bible Any questions, email Rick Bergmann at rick.bergmann@eumcbeltsville.com

Cooking with Pastor King: Sweet Potato Brownies



- Ingredients:**
- 1 large sweet potato
 - 1/2 cup almond flour (or all-purpose)
 - 1/2 cup cocoa powder
 - 1/2 cup maple syrup
 - 1/4 cup melted coconut oil (or shortening or butter)
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 1 tsp baking powder
 - 1/4 tsp salt
- Optional: chocolate chips, chopped nuts



Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 350°F and line a baking dish with parchment paper.
 Peel and chop the sweet potato into small pieces, then steam or boil until soft (alternatively you may also microwave the sweet potatoes a few minutes at a time) until soft)
 Mash the sweet potato in a bowl until smooth.
 Add the flour, cocoa powder, maple syrup, melted coconut oil (shortening or butter), vanilla extract, baking powder, and salt to the bowl with the sweet potato. Mix well until smooth.
 Fold in the chocolate chips or chopped nuts, if using.
 Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish and smooth out the top with a spatula.
 Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
 Allow the brownies to cool in the pan for at least 10 minutes before cutting and serving.

1. Alice White
7. Dayo Hassan
10. Ian Kresge
11. Bryant Davis
12. Kemi Oluwafemi
17. Brendan McNealy
18. Nancy Cavallo
19. Sallie Rhodes
22. Sue Young
24. Jennifer Kresge, Margie Mock
29. Dara Hassan
30. Mary Jane Kenyon
31. Stephanie Ladd



9. Isaac & Kemi Oluwafemi

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Worship Through Giving: How Can I Give?
Online: 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.
Through the Mail: mail your offering to 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



Please pray for our homebound

- Glen and Pauli Colburn
 Ernie Kilbourne
 Emmy Lear
 Elsie Cline



Christian Love and Sympathy

to the families of Warren Allen, Lil Price (friend of Debbie McNitt) and Norma (sister-in-law of Suzie Mendohlson)

March Food Distribution

Saturday, March 22, 2025





38th ANNUAL TROOP 1033 SPRING LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS FUNDRAISER

Boy Scouts of America

Troop 1033

Beltsville, Maryland

February 22, 2025

Dear Beltsville Neighbor:

Spring is right around the corner as Boy Scout Troop 1033 will hold its 38th annual Troop Spring Lawn and Garden Products Fundraiser with a **deadline of March 22 for orders** and **delivery day on April 5**. Please consider ordering your lawn and garden supplies from Beltsville's Boy Scout Troop 1033.

- ✓ **DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY** – Your purchase will be brought to you at your home, placed at the location you designate, saving your time, energy, gasoline and keeping your car clean!
- ✓ **COMPETITIVE PRICES** -- Because of the discount given to us by JK Enterprise Landscape Supply, we can offer the products at a competitive price even with the modest mark-up that will provide income for our troop.
- ✓ **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** -- 33% of your total purchase value is a gift to BSA Troop 1033 and is tax-deductible if you itemize your deductions. Your deduction will be noted on your receipt.

If you have any questions about the products, call JK Enterprise Landscape Supply at (703) 212-8088, or visit them on the Web at www.LumberJake.com. You can look at many of the products we are offering online and obtain additional information about each product's use and application. If you have questions about the fundraiser of Troop 1033, call Jonathan P. Szczepanski at (301) 332-8224 with any questions.

Please look over our list of products on the backside of this letter, fill out the order form, write your check payable to BSA Troop 1033 for the total amount of your order, and mail your order form and check to:

BSA Troop 1033, 11330 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, MD 20705

- All orders must be received by Sunday, March 22 to allow for delivery on Saturday, April 5. (In case of bad weather delivery will be on Sunday, April 6.)
- Delivery is limited to the Beltsville/Calverton area *BUT* customers outside the area can pick up their orders in the parking lot of **Emanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705** on the delivery day.

Our goal this year is to send every scout in our troop to summer camp. A week long Boy Scout camp is what most boys remember their entire life and we want each boy to have the opportunity to attend camp this year. Your support of our fundraiser will allow this to happen. In addition, this year's fundraiser will provide us to continue the great Scouting tradition of going camping, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, climbing, swimming, and just plain having fun outdoors.

Please note that all efforts to organize and operate this sale are 100% volunteered by supporters of Scouting in Beltsville.

Thank you for your continued support of our Troop!!!

(Please see the order form on the opposite side)

Apreciables Besinos de Beltsville:

La tropa de los Boy Scout Tropa 1033 de est comunidad, colecta fondos anuales en la primavera. En esta ocasión estamos ofreciendo productos de jardinería de alta calidad. Como: fertilizante, pajote (mulch), tierra, etc. Su compra será distribuida al lugar que usted designe (Beltsville/Calverton solamente), usted estará ahorrando tiempo, energía, gasolina y la limpieza de su auto! 33% de la compra total será una contribución para la tropa de BSA 1033 – y será deducible de sus impuestos, su deducción estará escrita en su recibo. Por favor observe el reverso de esta forma, para hacer su orden. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor visite nuestra página web www.bsabeltsville.net ó llamando Jonathan P. Szczepanski al tel- 301-332-8224. Gracias por su colaboración a la Tropa BSA 1033.



Order # _____

BOY SCOUT TROOP 1033

38th Annual Spring Lawn & Garden Products Fundraiser

Order by: Saturday, March 22, 2025

For Delivery on: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Price List and Order Form

ITEM	PRODUCTS	UNIT PRICE	Quantity	TOTAL COST
A	Hardwood Shredded Mulch (2 cu ft)	\$5.50		
B2	Black Dried Hardwood Mulch (2 cu ft) - NOT Cedar	\$6.00		
B3	Double Shredded Cedar (2 cu ft)	\$6.50		
C	Pine Bark Mulch (*3 cu ft*)	\$6.50		
D1	Pine Bark Mini Nuggets (*3 cu ft*)	\$7.50		
L1	Leaf Compost (1 cu ft)	\$5.50		
S	Topsoil (1 cu ft)	\$4.50		

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

Donation to Boy Scout Troop 1033 +\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make check payable to: "BSA Troop 1033"

Telephone: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Instructions for delivery:

For Troop Use Only:

ORDER # _____

Neighborhood _____

Mail Order Form to:
BSA TROOP 1033
11330 Montgomery Road
Beltsville, MD 20705

We Thank You for Your Support of Troop 1033!

Your Tax Deductible Amount is: \$ _____ and/or Donation: \$ _____; TOTAL \$ _____

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>OFFICE HOURS M, W 9:30 am - 2:00 pm</p> <p>Calendar Room Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (Sanctuary Building) (CSR) - Chester Stewart Room (Education Building) (Zoom) - Virtual (S) - Sanctuary</p>						
<p>2 10:00 am Worship (S) 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p>	<p>3 Office Open 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>4 Office Closed</p>	<p>5 Office Open 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>6 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>7 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>8 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>
<p>9 10:00 am Worship (S) 11:15 am Monthly Potluck 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p>	<p>10 Office Open 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>11 Office Closed</p>	<p>12 Office Open 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>13 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>14 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>15 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>
<p>16 10:00 am Worship (S) Noon UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH) 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p>	<p>17 Office Open 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>18 Office Closed</p>	<p>19 Office Open 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH) 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>20 Office Closed</p>	<p>21 Office Closed</p>	<p>22 8:00 am Free Food Distribution 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>
<p>23/30 10:00 am Worship (S) 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p>	<p>24/31 Office Open 7:00 pm Depression Bi Polar Support (V) 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Office Open 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>27 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>28 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists rehearsal: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner (FH)</p>	<p>29</p>