

## THANKSGIVING!

# The Lamplighter

## The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



## **NOVEMBER 2023**

### IN THIS ISSUE

- + A Thank you From The Whites p. 2
- + Hello From Elmo p. 2
- + Your questions answered about UpStage Artists p. 2
- + Update from the Trustees p. 3
- + Update from Troop 1033
- + The Beltsville Lions Reporting for Duty p. 4
- + A Memorable Laity Day p. 4
- + United Women in Faith Mission Outreach p. 5
- + UpStage Artists Presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever p. 6
- + Cooking with Pastor King: Quick Chili p. 7
- + History of Hymns: Climbing Jacob's Ladder p. 8

#### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Share your talents at Emmanuel by sharing the Word as a Scripture Reader during our Sunday 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!

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



From the Pastor's Desk...

## **Just Another Manic Monday**



The telephone rang, and I saw that Roy White was calling me. I was on another call but quickly and excitingly got off the phone because Roy and I typically text, and certainly a phone call commanded my full attention! In fact, I announced to the other party, "Roy White is calling," and she said, "Maybe it's a scammer!"

When I answered the phone, the male voice (who didn't sound like Roy) said, "Hello, I found this phone in the men's room at BWI, and I noticed that you were texting the number, so I called to let you know."

"Oh, dear the phone belongs to my church Lay Leader. He is traveling, and he NEEDS that phone!"

After the gentleman did a general search for Roy and calling the home number with no answer, we decided that the gentleman should take the phone to the BWI lost and found.

In the meantime, I tracked down Carrie's cell phone number and left a text to say that Roy's phone had been lost but would be in the Lost and Found. Since I was sure is Roy was flying out of town or had flown back into town, I volunteered to pick up the phone if Roy could not.

As it turned out, the trusty staff at the lost and found wouldn't accept the phone for safekeep, and I asked the phone finder if he would take the phone with him, and I would rendezvous with him to retrieve it.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Carrie sent a text saying she was are the airport with Roy and that he was on his way to the Lost and Found to retrieve the phone!

Lawd, ha' mercy!

The guy with the phone had already been picked up by his ride, and I was already heading out in my car to meet him outside of the airport. I updated Carrie, but a good while later Roy had still not returned to where she was waiting for him.

I was driving and praying on my way to the meeting spot, where I finally connected with Damon (and his wife Danita) who came to the rescue in a big way!

As this Lemony Snicket Series of Unfortunate Events would have it, turns out that not only is Damon a great guy and an Omega Psi Phi brother, he's also the brother of our UMC colleague, Rev. Daryl Foster of Cherry Hill UMC in Baltimore.

I thanked them both profusely. By this time Roy and Carrie had reconnected and let me know which arrival gate they would at so that I could meet them.

I hurriedly got back in my car, drove over to "Arrivals" and safely delivered the phone back into Roy's hands!

### A Thank You from The Whites



October 2023

Dear Pastor King and to the congregation,

We are so overwhelmed by your kindness, thoughtfulness, and love given to us last Sunday. The lovely service with nice comments and the beautiful gift of the glass plaque were very much appreciated. In addition, the farewell delicious luncheon along with the beautiful cake was quite a surprise to us.

We shall always cherish many wonderful years of our time at EUMC. The people have been always warm and kind to us, and we shall never forget each of you. Again, our heartfelt thanks for your sweet thoughts. May God bless you all. Our love in Christ,

Carrie and Roy White

#### Hello From Elmo



Longtime member Elmo Webb has been spending some time in Sykesville, closer to family, while he is concentrating on his health. He and Pastor King spent one afternoon outside enjoying sunny but crisp fall day. Elmo sends his love to all the members, family, and friends at Emmanuel.





## Your Questions Answered About UpStage Artists



There seems to be a few questions about UpStage Artists and their use of the building. So, let me answer your questions.

#### 1. Does UpStage Artists fill out all the proper forms for room use or does Rick just do what he wants?

UpStage Artists, like all outside groups, fills out all of the proper paperwork, goes through the same approval processes, and follows all of the rules set down by the church. They, like any other group, can not just do whatever they want at any time.

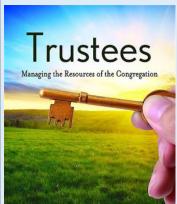
#### 2. Does UpStage Artists pay the church?

The short answer is "yes." UpStage gives a monthly monetary donation to the church. Along with the monetary donation, they provide other things throughout the year. Last year, they provided Christmas Breakfast for everyone who didn't have a place to go on Christmas morning. They had the piano tuned in the fellowship hall even though it doesn't get used very often. They have provided other things as well during their time at Emmanuel.

Please remember that if you have a question about something or someone, go to that person or organization directly instead of asking others. They will be happy to answer your questions.

## **An Update From The Trustees**

By Rick Bergmann



Hello everyone,

As we are going into winter and the end of the year, the Trustees want to share a few updates. The question we hear the most right now is when are we turning the heat on? Soon, Cale Fuller is going to come over in the next few weeks to get it turned over. We waited a little while because of the unusually warm temperatures we had at the end of September going into October. Even now the average afternoon temperatures are still in the 70's. But, it will happen within the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience.

Just a reminder about room use, you need to fill out the proper forms before you can use a room. It needs to go through the approval process. This happens whether you are a church ministry or organization or you are an outside organization. For those organizations that have regularly scheduled meetings, we are going to be sending out emails to you so that you can submit your new room use for the year. This allows us to keep updated records and contact info for all of the groups that use our facilities. This is only for your regu-

larly scheduled meetings (i.e we meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month) and not for your specialty events (i.e. a fundraiser, the apple festival, etc.) You can submit room uses for those events as needed. If you would like to use a room for something, email the office and they will send you the form to fill out. Once it is filled out it goes to the chair of trustees for initial approval and then is sent to the Pastor for final approval. Once the Pastor has given final approval, it goes back to the office so that they can contact the person using the space and answer any questions they may have. That is all for now. If you have any questions or notice something that needs to be fixed you can email us at trustees@eumcbeltsville.com.

## **An Update From Troop 1033**

By Jenny Kresge



Scout Troop 1033 continues to have fun and help our community! At the end of September, we went camping in Nanjemoy, MD. We spent several hours canoeing and kayaking, as well as practicing cooking over an open fire and stargazing. In the beginning of October, we joined with Cub Pack 1031 to work on cleaning up the Little Paint Branch Park in Beltsville. We removed invasive porcelain berry vines and picked up litter.

The annual Scouting for Food canned food drive is coming soon! The last weekend in October, scouts from Troop 1033 and Pack 1031 will be putting post-it note type stickers on front

doors of houses throughout Beltsville and Calverton, letting residents know that we'll be by on November 4th to collect any donations of non-perishable food that they would like to give. On November 4th, we will return to those neighborhoods to collect any donations and bring them to St. Joseph's Catholic Church to count, weigh and sort into categories. We'll then split the donations between the food pantries at St. Joseph's and here at Emmanuel UMC. This is our biggest service project of the year. Last year we collected approximately 2700 pounds of food! (Please note, if you do not get a sticker on your door, we will not be in your neighborhood to collect we only have so many scouts, we can't cover everywhere!)





Join us on Sunday mornings in hybrid worship in person or through Zoom. Worship begins at 10 am.

Use this link if you wish to attend virtually:

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

## The Beltsville Lions Reporting for Duty

The Lions Community Outreach Foundation provided vision and hearing screenings at National Harbor on 14 October. Beltsville Lion Pastor King and Lions Ann and Ted Ladd participated. One photo shows Lions Mary DeHart, Rich Barb and LCOF President Mike Bigler. Lion Mary orchestrated the event. The Lions District-22C mobile health unit held all the necessary equipment, and people were offered complimentary exams.















## A Memorable Laity Day



Thank you to Balkissa and Binta for providing lunch on Laity Sunday!

Many thanks to all the laity who planned, participated in, and executed the worship service, with Ricky Whitecotton giving a good word. Special thanks to Balkissa (and Binta) for working so hard to make delicious lunch boxes for everyone to enjoy!

Laity Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the many caring, committed laity, who share their faith and labor in love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.





#### United Women in Faith Mission Outreach

Your donations support the following organizations:

Salvation Army
Epworth House Mission project
Pam Randall Memorial book program
Scholarship Fund - BWC
Fish of Laurel - Elizabeth House
Emmanuel college student love offering

Donations should be made out to Emmanuel United Methodist Women (EUMW)

Attention Jane Grays on envelope
Please send your donation by November 15 to

11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705



- 1. Elisabeth Cavallo
- 2. Crystal Webb
- 4. Beverly Huneycutt
- 5. Katie McNealy
- 6. Kayla Hicks
- 12. Jaime Hiner
- 13. Chris Ademiluyi
- 14. C. J. Huneycutt, Michael Vaughan
- 16. Glendy Aguilera
- 21. Edward Mougey
- 25. Patricia Allen, Judy Diedrich, Sarah Elliott, Claire Wray

27. Ginger Butcher

28. Olamide Oluwafemi



12. Susie Kilbourne and Chris Insley

#### Worship Through Giving: 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.

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

#### Please pray for our homebound

Glen and Pauli Colburn Bob Humphrey Ernie Kilbourne Out of state: Lil Mizzer

#### **Christian Love and Sympathy to**

Christian Love and Sympathy to the family of Ruth Smith



November 2023 www.eumcbeltsville.com

## **UpStage Artists Presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

UpStage Artists produces a family show each year and this year they have chosen "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson. It's based on Mrs. Robinson's 1971 novel of the same name.

In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem – and the fun – when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas!

This is a wonderful show for theater goers of all ages and is a fantastic show to introduce younger children to the joy of live theater. UpStage's production features 17 children and 8 adults including Levi Martin, Binta Kassambara, and Susie Mendolsohn from Emmanuel.

Show dates are December 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7:30 and December 3 and 10 at 2 pm. Tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased at www.upstageartists.com/tickets in advance or at the door the day of the show. As part of our community outreach for this show we will also be taking donations for Beltsville Community Cats. So come out and enjoy The Best Christmas Pageant Ever this December!



A Comedy for the Whole Family
Tickets are only \$10
December 1, 2, 8, 9 at 7:30 pm
December 3 and 10 at 2 pm
11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705
www.upstageartists.com/tickets





## **Cooking with Pastor King: Quick Chili**



#### **Ingredients:**

1 lb. ground meat (beef, turkey, chicken, pork, lamb, etc.) Try the Italian ground turkey or a little Italian sausage with ground beef - you decide.

1 medium onion, chopped

1/2 cup chopped celery

1 (16 ounce) can stewed tomatoes

1 (15 ounce) can kidney beans, drained

1 (10 3/4ounce) can condensed tomato soup

1 envelope of McCormick Chili seasoning (the store brand will do) Select you level of spice.

#### **Directions:**

Crumble ground meat into a 2 1/2 quart casserole. Add onion and celery. Microwave, uncovered, on high 4-6 minute or until meat is almost cooked, stirring after half the cooking time to break up meat. Drain.

Add undrained tomatoes, drained beans, tomato soup, chili seasoning. You can spruce up your seasoning to taste (or even make your own) by adding chili powder, brown sugar, salt, pepper, cayenne, and oregano, and cumin.

Microwave, covered, on high 5 minutes. Stir. Reduce power to medium. Microwave, uncovered, 15-25 minute or until of desired consistency, stirring at least once. Makes about 2 quarts.

**NOTE:** You can also cook these ingredients in a large pot on top of the stove. It will take about the same amount of time if you have prepped and organized your ingredients. After bringing everything to a boil, simmer or put into a crock pot to keep warm.

## History of Hymns: 'We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

By Michael C. Hawn

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" ("Jacob's Ladder")
African American Spiritual
The United Methodist Hymnal, 418
Songs of Zion, 205

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus, To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus

"The story of Jacob's ladder is embedded in Genesis 28:10–22. Jacob was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham. In Jewish tradition, his brother, Esau, had sworn to kill him for stealing his birthright, which was the promise of his inheritance. Jacob fled to the house of a relative. As he rested for the night, he dreamed of a ladder extending between earth and heaven. As angels were ascending and descending the ladder or stairway, Jacob witnessed God at the apex of the ladder repeating the promise he had made to Isaac and Abraham: "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (Gen. 28:15, NIV). When Jacob awoke, he consecrated the place where God's presence was revealed to him by taking the stone he had used for his pillow, pouring oil on it, and making a vow: "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth" (Gen. 18:20–22, NIV).

Enslaved Africans found fertile connections between this narrative and their existential experience and spirituality. As with many spirituals, the origins of "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" are unknown. An undocumented account indicates that the spiritual dates between the wide span of 1750 to 1875 (James, 1995, p. 58).

Continued on the next page

History of Hymns continued from previous page

Ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax (1915–2002) suggests without documentation, "This is one of the old spirituals which emerged from white tradition but was early remade by Negroes" (Lomax, 1960, p. 453). He may have gleaned this from a note by the editors in Slave Songs of the United States (1867) that indicates, "We have rejected as spurious 'Give me Jesus,' 'Climb Jacob's Ladder,' (both sung at Port Royal), and 'I'll take the wings of the morning,' which we find in Methodist hymn-books" (p. vi). The implication is that the editors of Slave Songs sought to avoid songs that may have had origins in the white community. Without further documentation, it is difficult to know which variations of the song they are referencing.

Black historian, pastor, and educator Miles Mark Fisher (1899–1970) linked the spiritual's origins in the early nineteenth century to the re-patriotization of enslaved African Americans in West Africa. An unlikely alliance of mostly Quaker abolitionists and slaveholders formed the American Colonization Society (ACS) in 1816, the slaveholders viewing "re-patriotization" as a way to avoid rebellions by enslaved people on their plantations, even though they opposed their freedom. The ACS began sending a limited number of enslaved African Americans to Liberia in 1822. Related to these events, Fisher states that the Jacob's ladder theme appeared in spirituals around 1824 or 1825. It gained momentum following the Civil War (Fisher, 1952, pp. 56–57).

Songs on the theme of Jacob's ladder appear several times in Slave Songs in the United States (1867). Examples include "Wrestle on, Jacob" (No. 6), "I saw the beam in my sister's eye" (No. 23), "Wake up, Jacob" (No. 83), and "God got plenty o' room" (No, 128). The earliest printed sources of the spiritual as it is now known do not appear until the early twentieth century, beginning with Calhoun Plantation Songs, Second Edition (Boston, 1907), edited by Emily Hallowell, who notated the songs from the Black boarding students at the Calhoun Colored School in Calhoun, Alabama, an institution founded in 1892 and affiliated with the Tuskegee Institute. Hallowell's version (No. 33) in F Major is similar in musical style to the arrangements in hymnals today. The text was rendered in dialect:

We are climbing Jacob's ladder . . . so'dier ob de cross.

Eber'y round goes higher, higher . . . so'dier ob de cross.

Sinner do you love my Jesus . . . so'dier ob de cross.

If you love him why not serve him . . . so'dier ob de cross.

Do you think I'd make a so'dier . . . so'dier ob de cross.

Faithful prayer will make a so'dier . . . so'dier ob de cross.

Hampton Institute choral director Thomas Fenner (1829–1912), editor of Religious Folk Songs of the Negro (1909), included the song in his collection (p. 118) in E-flat Major. Rather than being notated in Common Time (4/4) as Hallowell had done, Fenner notes the musical meter in 2/2. The text is virtually identical to Hallowell's except for one stanza and does not use dialect:

We are climbing Jacob's ladder . . . soldier of the cross. Every round goes higher and higher . . . soldier of the cross. Sinner, do you love my Jesus? . . . soldier of the cross. If you love Him, why not serve Him? . . . soldier of the cross. Do you think I'd make a soldier? . . . soldier of the cross. We are climbing Jacob's ladder . . . soldier of the cross.

During the same year, Charles Davis Tillman (1861–1943), a gospel song publisher who often adapted songs from a variety of sources and incorporated them into what is now called southern gospel, included the song in his Tabernacle Songs (1909), followed immediately by The Revival No. 6 (Atlanta, 1910).



Fenner's Jacob's Ladder

History of Hymns continued from previous page



Tillmam's Jacobs-Ladder

Tillman adopted a standard gospel quartet call/response style with the lead voice beginning while the remaining three voices echoed the rhythm and words of the lead singer. He altered the single "soldier" to an army of "soldiers." Tillman also adds the refrain "We will rise and shine and give God the glory" after each stanza, an arrangement Tillman copyrighted in 1908. Tillman's stanzas indicate an intense evangelistic fervor:

We are climbing Jacob's ladder . . . soldiers of the cross. Each day brings me one round higher . . . soldiers of the cross. Jesus cleanseth all who trust him . . . soldiers of the cross. Don't you wish you had this blessing . . . soldiers of the cross. Jesus died that you might have it . . . soldiers of the cross.

Refrain: We will rise and shine and give God the glory . . . soldiers of the cross.

With slight textual variations, these two versions—the spiritual and Tillman's gospel song—established a counterpoint among the nearly ninety hymnals that include the song throughout the twentieth and into the twenty-first centuries. Arrangements by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) and J. Rosamund Johnson (1873–1954) in 1925 and John W. Work (III) (1901–1967) in 1940 indicate or imply a slower steady tempo that would accompany the climbing of a ladder. Tillman's arrangement reflects a livelier tempo in the spirit of a revival.

Howard University scholar John Lovell Jr. (1907–1974) notes, "The ladder was that of a new Jacob. Climbing was terribly important to the slave; he felt he had been kept down for too long" (Lovell, 1972, p. 245). Presbyterian minister and theologian Christa K. Dixon (1935–2003) notes that "where the spirituals sing of Jacob's ladder, the angels play no role whatsoever. The spirituals stress the personal initiative, determination, and the effort of the believer: 'I'm goin' to climb up Jacob's ladder,' 'I want to climb up Jacob's ladder'. . . The ladder . . . represents the last obstacle to be overcome before the faithful can arrive in the heavenly home and finally relax, freed from all of their burdens" (Dixon, 1976,

p. 16).

Theologian and Civil Rights leader Howard Thurman (1899–1981), commenting on this spiritual, believes it articulates a theology of hope: "There seems to be basic to human experience a kind of incurable optimism about the ultimate destiny of man . . . Sometimes blindly, sometimes with scarce hope of vindication, often with wild irrationality, the spirit of man dares to affirm ultimate hope" (Thurman, p. 84). Thurman further develops the theme of hope, concluding with an expansive understanding of the meaning of this spiritual that includes all humanity: "We are all climbing Jacob's ladder, and every round goes higher and higher. All who recognize that this is a living part of their experience join with those early destiny-bound singers who marched through all the miseries of slavery confident that they could never be entirely earth-bound" (Thurman, 1975, p. 87).

The spiritual has been included in at least ten African American collections published since 1980. Most include four, five, or six stanzas drawing upon those published in Fenner's 1909 collection. Almost all use the simple four-part familiar style used by Fenner. The exception is the quasi-choral arrangement by R. Nathanial Dett (1882–1943) from The Dett Collection of Negro Spirituals (Chicago, 1936) that appears in Songs of Zion (1982). Incorporating only two stanzas, the tenor part provides a counterpoint with a rising motif that contrasts with the traditional melody and rhythm carried by the women's voices. The bass part—predominantly in whole notes—uses an augmented line contrasting with the other parts. None of the hymnals published since 1980 used the revival variant by Charles Tillman. The "rise and shine" refrain appears to be a "floating" chorus that occurs with other texts, most notably a spiritual, "Jesus carried the young lambs in his bosom."

Other more recent hymnals that include the spiritual are Baptist Hymnal (1991), The New Century Hymnal (1995), Singing the Living Tradition (1993), and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The United Methodist Hymnal incorporates rhythmic variation and chromaticism by William Farley Smith (1941–1997). The New Century Hymnal (NCH) and Singing the Living Tradition (SLT) alter the text in several places, notably "soldier(s) of the cross" in the original final line of each stanza to "bearers of the cross" (NCH) and "we are climbing on" (SLT). Carlton R. Young notes that though the Hymnal Revision Committee for The United Methodist Hymnal struggled with militaristic language such as that found in "Onward, Christian Soldiers," maintaining "soldiers" was never in question for this spiritual (Young, 1993, p. 675). Both NCH and SLT also include an additional text to the same melody, "We are dancing Sarah's circle" (1975), a feminist-inspired text by Universalist Unitarian Carole A. Etzler (b. 1944).

The spiritual was disseminated by a wide range of singers and in various musical styles throughout the twentieth century. Black bass Paul Robeson (1898–1976) often included this song in his programs.



November 2023 www.eumcbeltsville.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Emmanuel is of Follow @eumc	_beltsville Join ps://www.faceb	Instagram us on Facebook ook.com/groups EUMCBeltsville			JNITED METHO BELTSVILLE, MD is a journey, don't travel	
			1 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Lion's Club	2 Office closed 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal	3 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal	4 5 pm NA
5 10 am Worship 2 pm Zimbabwe Church in Sanctu- ary 6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room	6 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal	7 Office closed	8 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study	9 Office closed <b>7 pm</b> UpStage Artists Rehearsal	10 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal	11 <b>5 pm</b> NA
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